

Hafa Adai!

Quitugua sworn in as Rota's new Board of Education member. **PAGE 2**
CPA wants to reconcile over \$2M CUC bill. **PAGE 4**

\$1

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXXIV, Issue No. 176

www.saipantribune.com

TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 3, 2024

www.facebook.com/saipantribune

'Proposed sale of IPI assets does not benefit creditors'

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI government has filed an opposition to Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC's motion to approve bid procedures for

sale of substantially all its assets stating that the proposed sale of IPI's properties does not benefit creditors.

Previously, IPI and a committee of its creditors reached an agreement to pursue the liquidation route in its Chapter

11 Bankruptcy proceedings instead of reorganization.

IPI has brought the agree-

See IPI on Page 4

BOH awards \$25K to 5 small business owners



By **RACQUEL H. FLOYD**
raxtfloyd@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Five small business owners were each awarded a \$5,000 grant from Bank of Hawaii's Small Business Revitalization and Development Grant (I Kinometi Para I Kumuni-dat I Isla- ta Grant) last Friday afternoon at the Board of Regents Conference Room of the Northern Marianas College.

The five recipients of \$5,000 grant each were Alexandra Villagomez of Isla

From left, Vince Tudela of Peska CNMI dba Peska Tackle, Rens Belo of Mechille Corp., Alexandra Villagomez of Isla Consultancy Services, Jake Hocog of Tilsteel, LLC dba Divine's Essentials, and Edgar Duenas Niric of Eastside Barbershop pose with, standing from left, Northern Marianas College vice president of Administration and Advancement Frankie Eliptico, SBDC Network director Nadine DeLeon Guerrero, CNMI Bank of Hawaii assistant branch manager Joanne Aldan, BOH vice president Michael Sakazaki, and SBDC's Mercyllin Palec.

Over 100 Palauans attend Whipps rally

On the evening of Aug. 31, from 6pm to nearly midnight, Palauans on Saipan came together in Susupe for a gathering filled with hope and determination.

The event, held in a spirit

of unity and celebration, focused on the vision they share with President Surangel S. Whipps Jr.—a thriving Palau that puts the needs of its people first. The crowd estimate

See OVER on Page 4



Palau President Surangel S. Whipps Jr. uses graphics to show Palau's increasing economic activity in the past three years, reflecting the results of the work to increase minimum wage, modernize Palau's tax system, diversify tourism, and take advantage of technology to explore new opportunities like digital residency. To his left is chief of staff Landisang Kotaro and to his right is Clint Ngiraked, former president of Palau Community Association of CNMI.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

DPS seeks help ID'ing suspects in burglary and theft incidents



DPS

Surveillance footage shows the female suspect walking off with two engine batteries last Sunday at the CTSI storage facility along Industrial Drive in Puerto Rico.

By **CHRYSTAL MARINO**
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

Two individuals didn't take the day off last Labor Day

after stealing a heavy equipment truck battery and truck tires in two separate incidents last Sunday, Sept. 1.

See DPS on Page 4



DPS

Surveillance footage of the female suspect involved in a recent theft case at the WIC Administrative Office in Upper Navy Hill carrying a stolen tire.



DPS

Surveillance footage of the male suspect involved in recent theft case at the WIC Administrative Office in Upper Navy Hill carrying off a stolen tire.

INSIDE



NATION

As the Earth sizzled through a summer with four of the hottest days ever measured, Vice President Kamala Harris and former President Donald Trump have starkly different visions on how to address a changing climate while ensuring a reliable energy supply.

PAGE 9



WORLD

Tens of thousands of grieving and angry Israelis surged into the streets Sunday night after six more hostages were found dead in Gaza, chanting "Now! Now!"

PAGE 10



LIFE & STYLE

"Deadpool & Wolverine," one of the defining movies of the summer, ruled the box office on a weekend with quiet openings and low theater attendance as the summer movie season came to an anticlimactic close.

PAGE 11



SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.



GOT A NEWS TIP?

TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440 FAX: 235-3740 EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

Local

Quitugua sworn in as Rota's new Board of Education member



Rota BOE member Daniel Ogo Quitugua and wife, Barbara D. Bobbi Iglesias are joined by CNMI Supreme Court Justice John A. Manglona, Board of Education acting chair Gregory Pat Borja, BOE member Andrew L. Orsini, Education Commissioner Dr. Lawrence F. Camacho, and senior director Jackie A. Quitugua.

The Board of Education and the Public School System officially welcomed the newest member of the policy and governing body of the school district, representing Rota, Daniel "Danny" Ogo Quitugua, after he was sworn into office by CNMI Supreme Court Justice John A. Manglona on Friday morning.

Quitugua takes up the remaining duties of retired Army sergeant major Herman

Manglona Atalig, who left in June to focus on his health. Atalig saw combat during the Vietnam War resigned effective July 15.

BOE acting chair Gregory Pat Borja, BOE member Andrew L. Orsini, and Education Commissioner Dr. Lawrence F. Camacho led education leaders and stakeholders in witnessing the oath-taking ceremony. It was held at the BOE conference room on Capitol Hill.

Students from different schools took an active part in the oath-taking ceremony, with the Kagman High School JROTC taking the lead in the presentation of colors, Marianas High School Glee Club for the singing of the U.S. National Anthem, and Chacha Oceanview Middle School Chamorro Carolinian Language and Heritage Studies class for the CNMI anthem.

BOE member Quitugua

started his journey in public service some 30 years ago as elected BOE member in 1993. The following year, he was elected as BOE chairperson.

For the next four months, Quitugua will represent Rota to the BOE, which has five elected members and non-voting members representing teachers, non-public schools, and students.

Atalig, before his resignation last June, was the most senior BOE member. He resigned to give time to focus on his health.

Last Friday also marked Quitugua's official first day as a BOE member, and he was humbled by the honor and warm reception he received.

"Good morning, chairman Borja, member Orsini, and Commissioner of Education Dr. Camacho... and the rest of the PSS staff. I sincerely appreciate this occasion. I thought that I would just be coming in and raising my right hand before the honorable Supreme Court justice and swearing to uphold the CNMI Constitution, the Constitution of the United States, and the Board of Education's regulations and policies," said Qutugua.

Praised
During his remarks, Qitugua



On Friday, CNMI Supreme Court Justice John A. Manglona administers the oath of office of Daniel Ogo Quitugua as the newest member of the Board of Education representing Rota. Joined by his wife, Barbara D. Bobbi Iglesias, the ceremony was held at the BOE conference room on Capitol Hill.

also praised his predecessor for his contributions to public education in the commonwealth as Rota's BOE member.

"As you all realized, the term of office that I swear to uphold is the remaining months of our former chairman representing the island of Rota, Sergeant Major Atalig... I visited him before I decided to submit my name for the remaining months (of his term).

Atalig also served as BOE vice chairman and chairperson on the committees for fiscal, personnel, and administration,

and the capital improvement projects.

"He has contributed time and effort to better the Public School System. And in that regard, I extend my sincere appreciation to him for all the efforts," Quitugua said.

The new BOE member pledged to work with his colleagues in the board on issues to help the school district.

Quitugua will also be working closely with the Education commissioner on several ideas to help the school district. (PR)

Saipan Tribune
Your customers could be looking at this space now.

Call us to learn more about advertising opportunities in Saipan Tribune.

ADVERTISE with us!

Call 670.235-8747 | Visit www.saipantribune.com



Rota's new BOE member Danie Ogo Quitugua, center, is flanked by BOE member Andrew L. Orsini, Education Commissioner Dr. Lawrence F. Camacho, and staff and personnel of the CNMI Board of Education.



Rota BOE member Daniel O. Quitugua speaks to well-wishers, including members of the community, the Public School System, and staff of the Board of Education, after he is sworn in officially on Friday.

NMC recognizes outstanding employees



Hunter



Attao



Hunter



Duan



Castro

Northern Marianas College recently recognized hard-working and dedicated employees by naming the recipients of the 2024 Annual PROA Employee Awards. The awards honor employees for their outstanding performance, contributions to NMC, and commitment to student learning.

The selection of award recipients was made by a committee composed of staff and faculty. The awards were presented during the government agency-wide Labor Day picnic held at the Garapan Fishing Base.

William Hunter, the college's Distance Learning Education coordinator, is NMC's overall Employee of the Year and also earned the nod for Non-Instructional Faculty of the Year.

According to nomination committee members, Hunter is

an innovative individual who is passionate about his work. He is known for his steadfast work ethic, calm demeanor, and respectfulness, always going above and beyond to provide hands-on assistance in resolving problems.

Lili "Rita" Duan, NMC's grants coordinator, is the college's Staff of the Year. Her colleagues regard her as someone who consistently exceeds expectations. She possesses strong leadership qualities, including empathy and effective communication skills. Duan is recognized for her organizational skills and ability to multitask while keeping students' needs in mind.

Dr. Barbara Hunter, the interim director for NMC's School of Business, has been recognized as the college's

Faculty of the Year.

Her peers noted her genuine care for her students and her team. Dr. Hunter is described as passionate about her profession, motivated by her students, and committed to the college's mission of cultivating stewardship through scholarship.

Malysa Castro, a student support counselor from Project PROA, is NMC's Counselor of the Year. Her colleagues describe Castro as a passionate and approachable counselor who has implemented various initiatives to help students succeed. She is dedicated to her role and is regarded as a valuable resource for students, embodying a positive attitude in all her endeavors and aligning with the college's vision of enhancing learning for all.

David J. Attao, the college's chief financial officer, is this year's Supervisor of the Year. Attao is credited with leading

NMC to a clean financial audit with no findings this fiscal year. His peers recognize him as the "epitome of finance,"

noting his solution-oriented approach and effective collaboration with employees to ensure stability at NMC. (PR)

Mafnas appointed new NMHC corporate director

The Northern Marianas Housing Corp.'s board of directors announced the appointment of Zenie P. Mafnas to serve as the NMHC corporate director.

For the past 17 years, Mafnas has worked in various positions at NMHC. Prior to this appointment, she has served as NMHC's deputy corporate director. She holds a master's degree in business from the Chaminade University of Honolulu. She will be the second woman to lead the agency since its inception.

Mafnas expresses her sincere gratitude to NMHC's board of directors for their confidence in her and she looks forward to working with all NMHC's stakeholders, most especially families under NMHC's programs.

The missions of NMHC are the following:

- Providing efficient and responsive delivery of housing, mortgage and community development programs to the people of the Commonwealth;
- Affording fair and equal opportunity to housing programs and services for all, with special emphasis to very-low, low and moderate income

individuals, elderly and persons with disabilities;

- Increasing and implementing home ownership programs with houses that is safe, decent, sanitary, and affordable;
- Encouraging and promoting economic independence, self-sufficiency and upward mobility for families; and
- Implementing programs to address the growing and future needs and economic viability of the communities in the Commonwealth.

The NMHC is comprised of various divisions that administer different programs. Listed below are the divisions and the programs they administer.

Mortgage Credit Division:

- HOME Investment Partnerships Program
- USDA Rural Development Loan Program
- Veteran Affairs Loan Program

Program and Housing Division:

- Section 8 New Construction Program (Scattered housing division owned by NMHC)
- Saipan: Mihaville &

Koblerville Estates

- Tinian: Broadway
- Rota: Blue Bay Homes (formerly known as "As Liyo")
- Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers

Planning Division:

- Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)
- Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR)
- Health-Emergency Solutions Grant (HESG)

Fiscal Division:

- Manages the financial affairs of the agency.

Asset Management Division:

- Manages the agency's property and building maintenance, ensures safety compliance, and ensures accountability of NMHC's assets.

Administrative Division:

- Provides administrative support to all divisions.
- Manages the Procurement of all services and purchases for the agency.
- Manages the Personnel services of the agency. (PR)

US Labor recovers \$80K in wages for 55 employees

GUAM—A U.S. Department of Labor Wage and Hour Division investigation found construction subcontractor UMS Heavy Equipment Rental Inc. in violation of federal contract labor laws while under a multi-million federal service contract for management and disposal of debris resulting from Typhoon Mawar on Guam in May 2023. Investigators determined the employer violated federal labor laws by failing to pay \$80,346 in minimum and prevailing wages, fringe benefits and overtime.

Wages recovered and damages assessed included \$48,843 in minimum wages for 43 workers, \$24,764 in fringe benefits for 53 workers, \$6,256 in overtime wages for 25 workers, and \$483 in prevailing wages for nine workers.

"By their failure to fully meet the President's Executive Order minimum wage for workers on federal contracts and underpaying earned health and holiday benefits, UMS Heavy Equipment Rental shortchanged people who worked hard to help Guam recover in the wake of Typhoon Mawar," said Wage and Hour Division district director Terence Trotter in Honolulu. "Thanks to our investigation, dozens of workers have received the wages and benefits they rightfully earned."

UMS Heavy Equipment Rental is a subcontractor to major construction companies needing trucking and heavy

equipment services. A 2021 investigation found the employer violated overtime requirements under the Fair Labor Standards Act and recovered \$17,308 in back wages for 20 employees and the assessment of \$7,250 in penalties.

Workers can use the division's Workers Owed Wages search tool to see if they are

owed back wages collected by the division. Employers and workers can contact the Wage and Hour Division for assistance at its toll-free number, 1-866-4-US-WAGE. Workers and employers alike can help ensure hours worked and pay are accurate by downloading the department's Android and iOS Timesheet App for free in English or Spanish. (PR)



KARIDAT
Catholic Charities - Diocese of Chalan Kano

A Northern Mariana Islands Social Service JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(1) SHELTER WORKER

For more information or interested applicants can email: info@karidat.org to receive a position description and fillable form.

DOCUMENTS REQUIRED: A completed application form, copy of diploma/degree, resume/bio-data; current police clearance within 6 months and a copy of valid driver's license.

NO PHONE INQUIRIES PLEASE.

CLOSING DATE: FRIDAY, September 6, 2024 AT 4:00 PM

KINGFISHER GOLF LINKS

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

(1) FRONTDESK/OPN STAFF
(3) GROUNDSKEEPER
(1) ACCOUNTANT

Green Card / EAD Holders & U.S.
Citizens are invited to apply

Application forms are available at the Front Office or you can send your resume to Josie C. Camacho at email address josie.kingfisher@gmail.com



COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION Office of the Executive Director



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS CUC-RFP-24-019

LEASE OF MIDSIZE TRUCKS AND COMPACT SEDANS

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified Vendors for the Lease and Delivery of Brand-New Midsize Trucks and Compact Sedans in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The RFP Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$50.00 (non-refundable) for one RFP package set.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "**CUC-RFP-24-019, Lease and Delivery of Midsize Trucks and Compact Sedans**" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on September 24, 2024**. Late submissions and conditional RFP will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers who submit proposal determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. All proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity for discussion. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from the proposal submitted by competing proposers.

All Offerors are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Proposer's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract.

This Request for Proposal does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of the proposals under this request, or to procure or contract for services. The Proposers are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This RFP and ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on September 2, 2024**, to Manny B. Sablan, CUC's Purchasing Administrator, via email manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Vicente Deleon Guerrero, Compliance Administrator via email vicente.deleon-guerrero@cucgov.org, and to Marcela Tenorio, Senior Administrative Technician at marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said RFP, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

KEVIN O. WATSON
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

CPA wants to reconcile over \$2M CUC bill

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Ports Authority is working with the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. for a reconciliation of its utility billings totaling over \$2 million.

During a previous CUC board meeting, it was reported that CPA has reached out to CUC seeking reconciliation of its billing of over \$2 million which includes late fees and penalties.

Saipan Tribune has reached out to CPA who issued a statement over the weekend stating that because CPA doesn't agree with the some of the fees imposed by CUC, they are seeking reconciliation which is underway.

"The amount reflects certain CUC imposed fees, penalties, and late charges that CPA does not necessarily agree with. This matter was discussed briefly (amongst other items) at a recent meeting between CPA and CUC and both agencies have started efforts to try and reconcile these dif-

ferences of account," said CPA.

In addition, CPA clarifies that its CUC bill is current.

"Regular monthly consumption billings are all current," said CPA.

In related news, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. is also seeking a new memorandum of agreement with CUC regarding its outstanding utility bill.

CHCC's previous MOU with CUC expired last May.

According to CUC executive director Kevin Watson, CHCC has submitted a letter requesting another MOU to address its outstanding arrears.

The board asked Watson to respond to the letter.

CHCC has yet to comment on the issue.

In 2023, CUC signed an MOU with CHCC in which CHCC agreed to pay \$525,000 a month to address over \$53 million in utility arrears.

In a previous interview with CUC official Betty Terlaje, she shared that CHCC's MOU with CUC expired last May.

Terlaje, during the interview, said in order to address arrears reflective of utility usage increase, a new

memorandum of understanding with CHCC needs to be executed.

Up until the MOU's expiration, Terlaje said CHCC had been making good on their monthly payments pursuant to the MOU they've agreed to.

Unfortunately, Terlaje added,

CHCC's usage has gone up and the MOU only reflected CHCC's average prior to the MOU.

Fortunately, Terlaje said CUC is determined to work with agencies like CHCC to resolve arrears as CUC is dependent on these payments.

IPI

From page 1

ment before the NMI District Court's attention and asked Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona to approve bid procedures for sale of substantially all of its assets.

However, the CNMI government, through Office of the Attorney General Chief Solicitor Robert Glass Jr., has filed a motion in opposition to IPI's request arguing that it does not benefit all creditors, rather only the proposed "stalking horse" purchaser Loi Lam Sit.

"The court should reject the bid procedures for the simple reason that the bid procedures do not benefit the creditors. The entire procedure is designed to benefit the insider, Loi Lam Sit, who originally proposed to loan \$7 million to finance the bankruptcy proceeding, but ultimately only loaned approximately \$1.5 million for purposes of a Chapter 11 liquidation. Loi Lam Sit was originally approached by debtor. This was later amended to be a 'friend of the debtor.' This change at the very least

makes it questionable that Sit is an arms-length buyer as opposed to an insider," said Glass.

Glass further argues that the bidding process proposed by IPI ignores applicable lease provisions which governs transfer of the lease and is therefore deficient.

"Land in the CNMI is sacred and tied directly to the cultural history of peoples of Northern Marianas Descent. Article 13 of the Lease Agreement requires advance written approval by Department of Public Lands for any transfer or assignment. Further, Article 13 also requires a 15% payment as an assignment fee based on the capital gain of the leased land. The bidding procedure provides for neither of these requirements or any of the other requirements of Article 13 and thus must be rejected by the Court," said Glass.

Glass adds that the bidding process IPI has proposed allows the "stalking horse" purchaser to "win" without making any showing that they could complete the building project or that they have sufficient capacity and capital to comply with the terms

of the lease which require the hotel to be completed.

"In this way, the stalking horse bidder could win without any requisite showing they could comply with the terms of the lease which is a violation of 11 USC §365(b)(1)(C) which requires adequate assurance of future performance. This is also deficient and grounds to reject the bidding procedure," he said.

Glass argues that it is clear that Sit has a close relationship with IPI after financing the casino investor for \$1.5 million, and the low bid for essentially every significant asset of the debtor at only \$10 million raises substantial questions regarding whether the transaction is at arms-length.

"At the very least, the court should require evidence from the debtor and Mr. Sit that shows this is an arms-length transaction," he said.

Furthermore, Glass says IPI cannot be attempting to get the best price in a sale because debtor is not even aware of what they are selling.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

BOH

From page 1

Consultancy Services, LLC, Rens Belo of Mechille Corp., Vince Tudela of Peska CNMI dba Peska Tackle, Jake Hocog of TilSteel, LLC dba Divine's Essentials, and Edgar Duenas Niric of Niric, LLC dba Eastside Cuts.

The grant awarding ceremony was attended by Bank of Hawaii executive vice president and senior manager Michael Sakazaki, Bank of Hawaii CNMI assistant branch manager Joanne Aldan, NMC vice president of Administration and Advancement Frankie M. Eliptico, CNMI SBDC Network director Nadine Deleon Guerrero, and Tupu Cane Juice general manager Cameron Atalig.

Roman Tudela, SBDC Marketing manager who also served as the ceremony's emcee, explained that the event is a collaboration between Bank of Hawaii and the CNMI Small Business Development Center Network at Northern Marianas College, focusing on supporting local entrepreneurs.

"This partnership for the past three years has been focused on providing our local entrepreneurs with the support that they need to grow, thrive, and innovate," said Tudela.

Sakazaki highlighted the unique aspects of the 12-year partnership, emphasizing the bank's commitment to the community and financial literacy.

"I'm here to say we're invested in the market. We're not exiting. I want to let you know that and we're here to be sure that we continue our financial literacy . . . I know we have products and services, some of you are competitors that have banks here, but we aren't truly here about other people," said Sakazaki.

Deleon Guerrero thanked her SBDC team for their efforts in helping clients access capital and process loans. She emphasized the importance of small businesses in the com-

munity and their role in fostering the private sector. Guerrero mentioned the challenges small businesses face, particularly in accessing capital, and expressed gratitude to Bank of Hawaii for their program.

Eliptico thanked Bank of Hawaii for supporting not just the small businesses in the CNMI but also NMC.

"Bank of Hawaii has been very instrumental for us to rebuild here at the Northern Marianas College. In addition to the funds that you're providing for small businesses, we have directly received from the Bank of Hawaii Foundation, direct funds that help us to build. I'm not sure if it's \$10,000 or \$15,000 but it's a grant to build a simulation center in building A. We had just purchased all the computers and other equipment and we've remodeled the classrooms where students can simulate a business environment in various types of business industries."

Meanwhile, Atalig, who is one of the 2023 grant recipients, shared how the grant helped with Tupu Cane's branding and farming infrastructure.

"A lot of times when something new and innovative comes out, it's hard to keep the hype going," he said.

Villagomez of Isla Consultancy Services, LLC shared that she was informed about a grant opportunity from BOH through an email from SBDC a month ago. She's been running her consultancy business since 2022 and plans to use the grant to purchase resources like TVs, laptops, textbooks, and certificates. She currently lacks a physical office but with the grant, she intends to rent a space to accommodate at least eight people.

Mechille Corp., represented by Rens Belo, plans to use the \$5,000 for the exploration of a new wastewater purification device.

Eastside Barbershop in Kagman, owned by Niric, plans to use the funds for advertising and workforce expansion to increase awareness of the barbershop and hire and train additional staff to better serve the community.

OVER

From page 1

was over 100.

In a heartfelt and alcohol-free environment, attendees delved into the transformative journey that began when Whipps took office in 2021. The president, alongside his dedicated team, painted a vivid picture of the hurdles faced at the outset: a pandemic that stalled an already sluggish economy, deteriorating school infrastructure, an aging hospital, and a minimum wage stagnant since 2013.

Challenges extended to a struggling tax system, marked by inefficiencies and low compliance, as highlighted by a 2008 U.S. Government Accountability Office report. Yet, amidst these daunting obstacles, Whipps' resolve never wavered. His leadership was unwavering as he and his administration navigated the pandemic, sought new economic opportunities, and championed a fair tax reform.

The impact of Whipps' efforts is clear. In just over three years, Palau has begun to emerge from the economic downturn with renewed vigor. New flight connections to Australia, Taiwan, and other islands have reinvigorated tourism, while the Palau-Guam flight resumed operations with increased frequency.

With an eye on the future, Whipps has boldly steered Palau into the digital realm. The growing digital residency program and the exploration of innovative projects like Palau Stablecoin are testament to his forward-thinking vision. Modernized tax reforms, crafted with accountability and fairness, are already benefiting Palauans. His initiatives include a child tax credit, help for our nation's elderly, and enhanced support for individuals with disabilities, ensuring that the benefits of progress reach those who need them most.

The recent 2024 Compact Review Agreement with the U.S. represents a landmark achievement, securing

\$889 million to enhance health, education, and public safety while also, for the first time, addressing climate change. This historic agreement also introduces unprecedented support for U.S. military veterans residing in Palau and expands educational opportunities with in-state tuition benefits.

Exciting developments are underway, including the construction of a new hospital and ongoing renovations at the Belau National Hospital to improve patient care. Schools are receiving essential upgrades, from new facilities to safer infrastructure, ensuring a brighter future for Palau's children. Also work to build a much-needed new K-12 school in Babeldaob is underway.

As the event concluded, it was clear that the heart of Palau beats strongly with hope and unity. With Whipps' proven track record and unwavering dedication, the journey toward a brighter, more prosperous Palau continues with renewed enthusiasm and collective resolve. **(PR)**

DPS

From page 1

The Department of Public Safety is requesting the community's help in identifying the two suspects.

DPS assistant chief of police and acting public information officer Simon T. Manacop said the first incident occurred at the WIC Administrative Office in Upper Navy Hill at approximately 6:15am.

A security officer at the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., while monitoring surveillance footage, observed two individuals removing tires from a white Ford pickup truck parked at the office.

Responding officers arrived within minutes to find the vehicle stripped of all four tires. A subsequent search led to the recovery of two tires in a nearby jungle area. The suspects are described as a female dressed in black—a shirt, pants, and hat—and a male suspect wearing only camouflage shorts, with no shirt.

Later that morning, at around 10:49am, a second incident was reported at the CTSI storage facility along Industrial Drive in Puerto Rico. Employees arriving at work discovered tools scattered inside the facility and noticed that three heavy equipment truck batteries had been removed from the premises and placed in a break area outside. Surveillance

footage captured a lone female suspect, dressed identically to the female in the WIC office incident, entering the facility through the main gate at 5:53am. The suspect left seven minutes later with a stolen Napa brand heavy equipment truck battery.

DPS believes the same individuals are responsible for both incidents and urges anyone with information to come forward. Tips can be provided to the DPS Criminal Investigation Bureau at (670) 664-9042, DPS headquarters at (670) 664-9001, or the Crime Stoppers Hotline at (670) 234-7272 for anonymous tips. The public is also encouraged to call 911 to report any crime or emergency.

2024 Labor Day Celebration



KIMBERLY B. ESMORES

From left, Saipan Mayor Ramon B. "RB" Camacho, Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang, Department of Finance Secretary Tracy Norita, and Gov. Arnold I. Palacios award Yan Che Magofna the "Overall Employee of the Year" award for Saipan during last Sunday's Labor Day celebration at the Garapan Fishing base.



KIMBERLY B. ESMORES

From left, Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang and Gov. Arnold I. Palacios award the Office of the Governor the second place trophy for the Public Service Recognition Week softball tournament during last Sunday's Labor Day celebration at the Garapan Fishing Base.



KIMBERLY B. ESMORES

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, left, awards the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. the third place trophy for the Public Service Recognition Week softball tournament during last Sunday's Labor Day celebration at the Garapan Fishing Base.



KIMBERLY B. ESMORES

From left, Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang and Gov. Arnold I. Palacios award Homeland Security and Emergency Management the first place trophy for the Public Service Recognition Week softball tournament during last Sunday's Labor Day celebration at the Garapan Fishing Base.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Government employees play musical chairs during last Sunday's Labor Day celebration at the Garapan Fishing Base.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Saipan Mayor Ramon Blas "RB" Camacho plays musical chairs with a government employee during last Sunday's Labor Day celebration at the Garapan Fishing Base.



KIMBERLY B. ESMORES

Northern Marianas College staff parade in front of the staging area during last Sunday's Labor Day celebration at the Garapan Fishing base.



KIMBERLY B. ESMORES

Commonwealth Utilities Corp. employees pose for a photo during last Sunday's Labor Day celebration at the Garapan Fishing Base.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Government employees play egg toss during last Sunday's Labor Day celebration at the Garapan Fishing Base.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Government employees join a soba-eating competition during last Sunday's Labor Day celebration at the Garapan Fishing Base.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXXIV, Issue No. 176

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

Mark Rabago EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Why the Fed shouldn't stop worrying about inflation

At the recent central-bank symposium at Jackson Hole, Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell delivered a widely expected message on interest rates: "The time has come for policy to adjust." He all but confirmed that the Fed would cut rates by at least a quarter-point when its policymakers next meet in September.

A modest cut makes sense. Inflation remains a little above target but continues to subside—and thanks to a cooler labor market, a lower policy rate would suffice to maintain gentle downward pressure on prices. That said, one of the points Powell made in his address deserves emphasis. Over the coming months, the biggest mistake the central bank could make would be to let investors think its attention is shifting away from inflation.

The Fed has a dual mandate—price stability and maximum employment—and needs to maintain equal weight on both. As Powell said, the upside risk on inflation has diminished and the downside risk on employment has increased. That dictates a policy adjustment, but this shouldn't be construed as unduly prioritizing employment over inflation. A shift in the balance of risks is not the same as a shift in the importance attached to each goal.

This is no mere semantic distinction. Powell's speech drew attention to what's at stake if the Fed is suspected of setting its inflation goal aside.

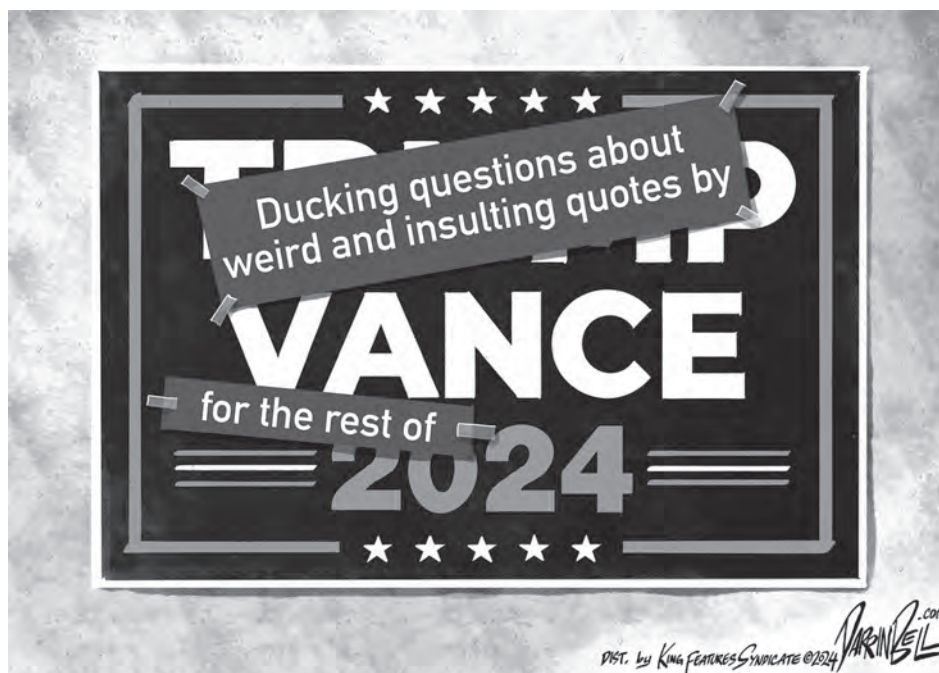
He asked: How did the Fed succeed in suppressing inflation without tanking the economy? His main answer was that in tightening policy decisively (albeit belatedly) in the spring of 2022, the central bank affirmed its commitment to a 2% inflation target—which, in turn, kept expectations anchored. As a result, the central bank's preferred measure of underlying inflation stood at 2.6% in June, down from its peak of 5.6% in 2022, with (as yet) no substantial increase in unemployment, much less an outright recession. If the Fed had let expectations rise, a recession might very well have been necessary to get prices under control.

The task of managing these expectations is complicated by the appetite of investors and analysts for momentous turning-points—that is, for seeing policy adjustments as shifts from one regime to another, as opposed to being dictated by a single consistent approach. Central banks, anxious not to take investors by surprise, sometimes aggravate this problem by suggesting that a change in interest rates commits them to further changes over the next year or more. This helps explain why the Fed chose not to raise rates in the second half of 2021, and perhaps why it decided not to cut them at its meeting last month: In both cases, the evidence supported a change in rates, but not firmly enough to justify an entirely new path.

There's a lot to be said for changing rates more readily in response to new data while avoiding promises, real or imagined, about what happens later. The commitment should be to the central bank's goals, not to a schedule for future policy. Lately Powell and his colleagues have edged in this direction, putting less weight on "forward guidance" and more on "data dependence" in service of the dual mandate. That's wise. In its next review of monetary strategy and communications, about to get under way, the Fed should take this thinking further.

As things stand, a small cut in interest rates is warranted. Whether it should be 0.25% or 0.50% can wait for new information on prices and jobs that will be released between now and next month's meeting. After that, whether rates fall, rise or stay the same should depend on the data.

©2024 Bloomberg L.P.



Some people can wait to get the new COVID shot

By LISA JARVIS

Bloomberg Opinion

Lisa Jarvis is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist covering biotech, health care and the pharmaceutical industry. Previously, she was executive editor of Chemical & Engineering News.



The latest COVID vaccines from Pfizer Inc. and Moderna Inc. are hitting U.S. pharmacy shelves, raising a now-perennial fall question: Will anyone bother getting them?

In theory, the updated COVID shots couldn't come at a better time. The U.S. is dealing with yet another summer surge, which in some parts of the country looked a lot closer in magnitude (by wastewater data standards, at least) to our last two winter outbreaks. The rising numbers have been driven by a combination of new variants and the public's waning immunity, with an assist from an inordinately hot summer that drove many people indoors.

These trends ideally would convince people to embrace the updated shots. But with only 22.5% of adults and 14.4% of children opting in for last fall's COVID vaccine, there is plenty of reason to doubt that there is much interest in the newest ones.

Anyone who hasn't had COVID recently should be considering the new shot. Hospitalizations and deaths, which in the spring had dipped to their lowest levels yet, have been creeping back up in recent weeks. More than 700 people in the U.S. per week had been dying in early August, and by one count, the U.S. just had two straight weeks of more than 1,000 deaths.

Those numbers are nowhere near the horrible days in 2020 and 2021 when thousands of people were dying every day. But those thousands of deaths each month might be preventable. And while many of us aren't at risk of the worst, COVID continues to disrupt our lives, whether that's simply making us miserable enough to miss a few days of work or wreaking more serious havoc like long COVID (the risk of which is thankfully lower than in the early years of the pandemic but still enough of a threat to warrant caution).

Most of us have likely been exposed to COVID by now, whether through past vaccines, infection or both. But new variants with subtle changes keep emerging. While many of us still have good protection against serious infection, those changes make us vulnerable to reinfection—particularly if it has been a while since we've gotten a vaccine or the virus.

The fast cycle of new variants also has made it hard to achieve a perfect match with the vaccines and made some skeptical of the value of the shots. Indeed, the Food and Drug Administration originally asked drugmakers to train the new shots against the JN.1 variant, then asked them to focus on KP.2. Now, just two months after that recommendation, yet another variant, KP.3, accounts for over half of infections.

Even so, the vaccine will still offer some protection. "It's the safest way to get immunity against not only the current variants that are circulating, but it established or boosts your preexisting immunity to COVID," says Andrew Pekosz, professor of molecular microbiology and immunology at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.

The greatest focus should be on people at high risk of severe disease—those over the age of 65, pregnant women, as well as anyone with a medical condition that makes them especially vulnerable. Given the ongoing spread, those groups should make an appointment to get vaccinated as soon as possible, says Pekosz. The immunity boost won't only help during this surge but should offer some protection against severe disease when the virus inevitably bounds back in the winter.

For everyone else, the timing can be confusing. "The really tricky thing is a lot of people got sick this summer, and they're wondering, what does that mean for me?" says Jennifer Nuzzo, director of the Pandemic Center at the Brown University School of Public Health. Anyone who got infected during this summer's COVID wave should probably wait 3-4 months before getting the vaccine. That recent infection taught their immune system how to recognize and ward off the virus. While getting the vaccine immediately afterward won't do harm, it also won't offer much benefit. If they are at low risk for serious infection, they may even opt to delay it until fall of 2025. (Though those folks shouldn't forget to get their flu vaccine in October.)

People spared from the summer wave also face a difficult choice. They could opt for a COVID shot now, which might help avoid an infection as everyone goes back to school and returns to work from summer travels, or hold off until October to maximize coverage for the coming winter. The latter option makes a lot of sense, as it would allow people to neatly time their shot with a flu vaccine—a combination that at least small studies suggest could enhance the effectiveness of the COVID shot.

One thing that would help maintain or ideally improve vaccination rates would be if everyone had an easier time getting vaccinated this year. Because the public health emergency around COVID formally ended in May 2023 (and with it, the era of free vaccines, tests and treatments for everyone in the U.S.), last fall brought the first commercial rollout of COVID vaccines. It was far from perfect, with many people struggling in the early months to find appointments or being hit with surprise bills.

Those wrinkles should be mostly ironed out by now for people with health insurance, for whom the COVID shots are free. But for those without insurance, the process of finding an affordable vaccine could still be unacceptably difficult. That's because a program launched by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to provide free COVID vaccines to the uninsured expired this month.

Last week, the agency said it would offer state and local health departments some \$62 million to support access to vaccines for those who can't afford them, whether they are uninsured or underinsured. That's helpful, but it still means that plenty of people might forgo the shot.

"We should be making this as easy as possible," Nuzzo says. As she points out, already so many disincentives to getting a vaccine exist, whether it's worries about feeling lousy afterward or being uncertain about the benefits. Making it even the slightest bit harder to afford and find a vaccine? That's bad for public health.

Workers are bearing the brunt of extreme heat

Ronald Silver II, a sanitation worker in Baltimore, won't be spending this Labor Day weekend with his family. On Aug. 2, during a sweltering 100-degree heatwave, Silver died while working a shift in a city garbage truck.

His death was preventable. In July, following worker complaints, Baltimore's inspector general reviewed conditions in the city's Department of Public Works. Employees, the IG found, "do not have adequate access to water, ice or fans to combat intense summer heat," as reported by The Baltimore Sun.

This problem goes far beyond Baltimore. Every year, tens of millions of U.S. workers in both indoor and outdoor settings face the dangers of extreme heat.

Climate change means rising global temperatures and also increased humidity, which interferes with the evaporation of sweat, the body's natural cooling mechanism. And because temperatures are also now higher at night, it's more difficult for workers to recover by resting up and cooling down after long hours.

The consequences are severe. Heat exhaustion and heat stroke, which develop with little warning, are becoming more common. Baltimore's medical examiner found that Silver died from hyperthermia, the most severe form of heat stroke, which can lead to multiple, fatal organ failures.

Public Citizen projects that extreme heat kills about 2,000 workers annually, and another 170,000 suffer heat-related injuries and illnesses. These numbers are certainly an underestimate, as heat may contribute to heart attacks or respiratory failures that are not always recorded as heat-related.

As we observe Labor Day, a holiday intended to honor Ameri-

can workers, it's clear that we need basic heat protections. Currently, no federal standard exists, and only five states—California, Colorado, Minnesota, Oregon and Washington—have statewide heat safety requirements. In the remaining 45 states, which account for 80% of the U.S. population, workers are out of luck.

Despite the danger, some employers continue to resist the implementation of a heat standard, arguing that it would be burdensome or costly. However, this shortsighted stance is actually bad for business.

According to one scientific estimate, lost productivity due to heat-related illness, for outdoor workers alone, costs the U.S. economy more than \$90 billion a year. Most importantly, protecting workers from extreme heat not only boosts productivity, it saves lives. Ignoring basic safety measures devalues the very people who drive our economy.

Here's the good news: Workers are looking out for themselves.

First, a process is underway to create a federal heat standard. That's because the Biden administration is responding to demands for a heat standard, spurred by a petition from unions, public health groups and safety advocates — including my organization, the National Council for Occupational Safety and Health (National COSH). A proposed nationwide standard, which requires employers to provide training on how to recognize heat illness as well as delivering access to rest, water and shade, was introduced in July and will soon be open for public comment.

Getting new federal regulations in place takes a while, and will face inevitable legal challenges from employers. Workers are not willing to risk getting sick or dying during more summers of grueling heat.

By **JESSICA E. MARTINEZ**

Progressive Perspectives

Jessica E. Martinez is executive director of the National Council for Occupational Safety and Health. This column was produced for Progressive Perspectives, a project of The Progressive magazine, and distributed by Tribune News Service.



That's why labor and safety groups are also successfully advocating for new local and state heat safety rules. In California, a new standard now protects 1.4 million indoor workers, who were previously excluded. The Arizona Heat Coalition has secured local ordinances in Phoenix, Tucson and Pima County, mandating access to rest, shade and water for contractors. This includes workers at Phoenix's Sky Harbor Airport, where temperatures can exceed 110 degrees.

Meanwhile, in Maryland, a proposed statewide heat safety standard, developed with input from National COSH advisers, has been published and will likely be in effect by next summer. Safety expert Jordan Barab notes that if such a standard had been in place this summer, Ronald Silver might still be alive: "He would have had access to water and rest breaks. If he had gotten sick anyway, his trained co-workers would have immediately recognized the signs of heat illness and implemented the emergency response program."

As our planet continues to warm, our workplaces will become even hotter. Here's a prediction that's more reliable than any weather report: Workers will continue to turn up the heat, demanding action to save lives from employers and elected officials.

Netanyahu's betrayal of remaining hostages could drag US into a regional Mideast war

Sharone Lifschitz attended six funerals last week for eight hostages the Israeli army retrieved from Gaza tunnels in body bags. "Four of them were members of my community," she told me wearily by phone from Israel. These were neighbors and friends from Kibbutz Nir Oz, near the Gaza border.

Meanwhile, her father, Oded Lifschitz, 83, remains a captive, if he is still living. Like many hostage families, Lifschitz blames Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu for Israel's failure to free them.

She said they have become pawns in a political game.

Lifschitz's story reflects a tragic political schism in Israel that threatens to scuttle any deal to halt or end the Gaza war and could drag the United States into an open conflict with Iran.

"Netanyahu is using these hostages for his political survival," said the 52-year-old Lifschitz, an artist, filmmaker, and university lecturer. "There were plenty of opportunities to return the hostages, but he used them to stay in power."

While Hamas has also thrown up many obstacles, Lifschitz said the unpopular Israeli leader sees any cease-fire and hostage exchange as a threat to his political survival; it would open the door to new elections, and the possibility that he could no longer avoid trials for corruption.

"He knows when the war ends, his power will end," she said. She is spot on.

In his desperation to cement his governing far-right coalition, Netanyahu has basically endorsed the views of two messianic fundamentalists, Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich—who was arrested in 2005 on suspicion of terrorism — and National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir, convicted in Israeli courts of supporting a terrorist organization in 2007.

Both these men call for annexation of the West Bank and provoke settler violence there. They want Israel to maintain permanent occupation of Gaza. As if that recklessness is insufficient, Ben-Gvir is trying to spark a Mideast holy war over the Temple Mount, a Jerusalem holy site sacred to Jews and Muslims.

These ministers, along with Netanyahu, scorn the hostage families who engage in constant demonstrations because the hardest-hit kibbutzim were settled by leftists who supported a two-state solution to the Palestine issue.

Lifschitz's journalist dad, Oded, a fifth-generation Israeli, helped found Nir Oz based on ideals of social justice and good relations with Palestinians. "My dad had many Arab friends in Palestine. Only two weeks before being taken hostage by Hamas, he was carrying on his weekly efforts to drive Gazan mothers and children to Jerusalem to get medical treatment," she said.

Her mother, Yocheved, 85, was also taken hostage by Hamas, who ripped her from her nightly oxygen machine but released her, in a wheelchair, in late October. When Nir Oz's hostage families met Netanyahu after last week's funerals, her mother demanded to know why the prime minister had never visited any of the destroyed kibbutzim. Of 400 Nir Oz residents, at least 38 were murdered and 75 taken hostage. The prime minister brushed her off.

If her father were back alive, I asked, would he have any regrets about having helped ordinary Gazans?

"No!" she replied swiftly. "He really wanted to preempt the disaster that has befallen us, wanted Israel to make difficult choices when we had a position of strength." She added: "My father fought against [Israel's long covert relationship with] Hamas. He never believed you should have an alliance with fundamentalists."

She was referring to Netanyahu's support for Qatar sending millions of dollars monthly to Hamas, up until the Oct. 7 invasion. He believed the cash would buy off the extremists who wanted to destroy Israel while he undermined the more secular Palestinian leadership on the West Bank that supported two states.

"Netanyahu fed Hamas. It's a monster he created," Lifschitz stated bluntly.

Yet, equally shocking is the effort by the prime minister and his partners to demean families who rally weekly at his door in Jerusalem. Israeli police, who serve under Ben-Gvir, have attacked the demonstrators. Netanyahu, who has never apologized for the government's failure to prevent the Hamas massacre, has scheduled a highly controversial official TV memorial service on Oct. 7 that is deeply resented by the kibbutzim and millions of Israelis.

"Bibi is a master of tearing us apart," Lifschitz mourned. "The vast majority of Israelis want a deal. Israel can't survive as a nation without the feeling we are all in this together."

The latest polls hover around 60% or more wanting the return of hostages compared with around 30% who prefer to continue the war. Yet, Ben-Gvir and Smotrich have stated clearly that the hostages are of secondary importance to "destroying" Hamas, a mantra Netanyahu echoes.

Although at least 30 of 108 remaining hostages are believed dead, and the rest are at high risk of imminent death, these ministers insist there must be no cease-fire deal—despite intense efforts by U.S., Qatari, Egyptian, and Israeli negotiators. The Israeli press is filled with accounts of how the prime minister has undercut his own negotiators.

It is painfully clear that the remaining hostages can only be freed by negotiations. The military has rescued only eight

By **TRUDY RUBIN**

The Philadelphia Inquirer

Trudy Rubin is a columnist and editorial-board member for the The Philadelphia Inquirer.



alive, while more than 27 have been killed in Gaza by Hamas or Israeli military strikes, including three escapees shot by soldiers while waving white flags and shouting in Hebrew. The Israeli Bedouin hostage freed this week was found by accident in a tunnel.

Better to free the hostages, pull back overstretched Israeli troops, and use a cease-fire to cool down the dangerous tensions between Hezbollah, Iran, and Israel, which keep tens of thousands of evacuated residents from returning to their homes in cities in the north. Israeli media report that the military leadership favors this option.

Then, after the first phase of the cease-fire, depending on progress, the next phase may begin. Yes, there will be risks, but Netanyahu's path leads to endless insurgency and regional war.

Instead, Netanyahu's extremists appear eager to expand the tit-for-tat exchanges with Hezbollah into full-scale war with Lebanon. Israeli TV hints that Netanyahu is urging an attack on Tehran's nuclear sites, and is again urging Washington to strike Tehran's nuclear program with two U.S. aircraft carriers in the region. Netanyahu waits hopefully for his supposed friend Donald Trump to win.

Whoa!

"I'd like the U.S. to put its foot down," urged Lifschitz. "I really hope that Biden doesn't wait until after the elections. That will be too late for many of the hostages. They don't have the time."

Again, she is on point. Joe Biden is still president, and Vice President Kamala Harris has shown more stomach for a stronger U.S. position toward ending endless civilian carnage in Gaza.

It's past time for the United States to sanction ministers Smotrich and Ben-Gvir, who are dragging their own country toward the abyss. And it is time for Biden, who has shown great love for Israel, to stop Netanyahu from treating his U.S. ally with the same disdain he shows to hostage families.

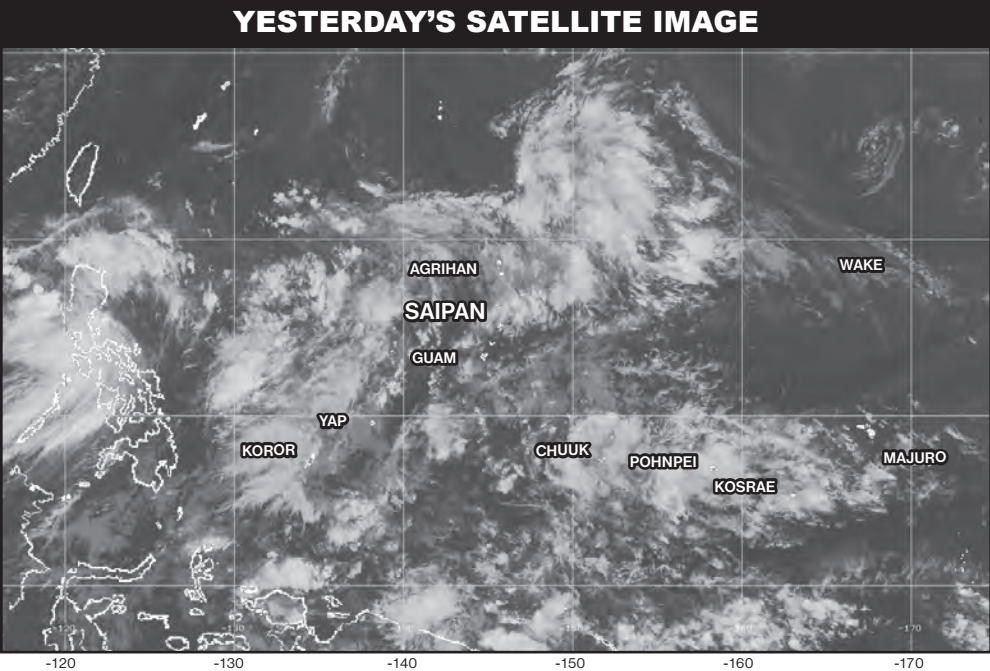
"Biden is free now to do what it takes," said Lifschitz. Now is the time to not only pressure Hamas but be far tougher on Netanyahu, and to explain why to the U.S. public.

"It would be the most profound humane gesture to get the hostages back," said Oded Lifschitz's daughter.

Before they are all dead.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY	
Isolated showers. Partly sunny.		Isolated showers. Partly sunny.		Partly sunny		Partly sunny		Mostly sunny	
87°	79°	87°	79°	87°	79°	87°	79°	87°	79°



PICTURE TIME: 6:27 AM MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2024

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite shows partly sunny skies and isolated showers moving through the Marianas Waters. Lowered the shower activity a little today and tonight to match this, with mention of increased showers and a few strokes of lightning to the west. Some of it is in the zones, and some of it isn` t, pretty much just broadbrushed that and lumped it all together. This dovetailed well with Tuesday` s expected weather of also isolated showers.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: <https://www.weather.gov/gum/>

MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	88° / 80°	
Palau	Partly Cloudy	84° / 77°	
Yap	Partly Cloudy	86° / 77°	
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	86° / 78°	
Pohnpei	Mostly Cloudy	85° / 77°	
Kosrae	Showers	85° / 79°	
Majuro	Thunderstorms	86° / 80°	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:04 AM	6:27 PM
Wednesday	6:04 AM	6:26 PM
Thursday	6:04 AM	6:26 PM
Friday	6:04 AM	6:25 PM
Saturday	6:05 AM	6:24 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	5:58 AM	6:39 PM	-
Wednesday	6:44 AM	7:11 PM	-
Thursday	7:30 AM	7:44 PM	-
Friday	8:15 AM	8:16 PM	-
Saturday	9:01 AM	8:51 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	61° / 46°	
Beijing	Sunny	86° / 74°	
Hong Kong	Sunny	86° / 80°	
Honolulu	Sunny	85° / 75°	
London	Partly Cloudy	61° / 54°	
Los Angeles	Sunny	85° / 67°	
Manila	Mostly Sunny	90° / 79°	
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	62° / 50°	
Miami	Thunderstorms	87° / 81°	
New York	Partly Cloudy	87° / 75°	
Osaka	Thunderstorms	93° / 81°	
Paris	Showers	97° / 71°	
Busan	Thunderstorms	82° / 78°	
Rome	Sunny	95° / 70°	
Salem	Thunderstorms	91° / 73°	
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	67° / 56°	
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	84° / 77°	
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	94° / 79°	
Washington, DC	Sunny	90° / 74°	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
2:01 AM	Low Tide	1.00	
7:14 AM	High Tide	1.88	
2:09 PM	Low Tide	0.19	
8:36 PM	High Tide	1.86	

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235.3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Friday, Saipan Tribune offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of \$180. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 18, 2024

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA076	9:50AM	10:35AM	Daily	UA174	8:00AM	8:50AM	Daily
SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
UA824	11:50AM	2:25PM	1, 3, 5	UA825	5:30PM	9:55PM	2, 4, 7
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	Daily	UA184	10:25PM	4:20AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA193	6:50PM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Palau	UA192	10:25PM	6:15AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
UA183	7:10PM	9:10PM	Daily	PR110	10:30PM	4:25AM+1	Daily
				UA184	11:50PM	5:45AM+1	2, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
7C3403/2305	4:45AM	10:20PM	Daily	UA192/174	10:25PM	8:50AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
UA076/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam	UA184/174	10:25PM	8:50AM +1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via Guam
UA076/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau	7C2306/3406	11:10PM	3:10PM+1	Daily
				UA184/174	11:50PM	8:50AM +1	2, 5 via Guam
SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)				INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	Daily	7C3406	9:30AM	3:10PM	Daily
7C3403	4:45AM	8:35AM	Daily	7C3472	11:05AM	4:40PM	Daily (July 17 to Aug 17)
7C3405	4:10PM	7:45PM	Daily	TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	Daily
				7C3404	10:10PM	3:40AM+1	Daily
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
HX77	4:05AM	7:00AM	1, 5	HX76	7:25PM	2:35AM+1	4, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 2, 2024

SAIPAN TO ROTA					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	SAIPAN	ROTA	08:30	09:00	Daily
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	10:30	11:00	Daily
1303	SAIPAN	ROTA	15:30	16:00	Daily
ROTA TO SAIPAN					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	ROTA	SAIPAN	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	11:30	12:00	Saturday & Sunday
3103	ROTA	SAIPAN	13:30	14:00	Monday To Friday
3104	ROTA	SAIPAN	16:30	17:00	Daily
ROTA TO GUAM					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	ROTA	GUAM	11:30	12:00	Monday To Friday
GUAM TO ROTA					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	GUAM	ROTA	12:30	13:00	Monday To Friday
SAIPAN TO TINIAN					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1201	SAIPAN	TINIAN	7:30	7:45	Daily
1202	SAIPAN	TINIAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	SAIPAN	TINIAN	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	SAIPAN	TINIAN	10:00	10:15	Daily
1206	SAIPAN	TINIAN	14:00	14:15	Daily
1207	SAIPAN	TINIAN	15:00	15:15	Daily
1208	SAIPAN	TINIAN	16:00	16:15	Daily
1209	SAIPAN	TINIAN	17:00	17:15	Daily
TINIAN TO SAIPAN					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2101	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
2102	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	TINIAN	SAIPAN	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	TINIAN	SAIPAN	10:30	10:45	Daily
2106	TINIAN	SAIPAN	14:30	14:45	Daily
2107	TINIAN	SAIPAN	15:30	15:45	Daily
2108	TINIAN	SAIPAN	16:30	16:45	Daily
2109	TINIAN	SAIPAN	17:30	17:45	Daily

Business

Elevate-HER Pitch competition launched

HAGÁTÑA, Guam—Bank of Guam, in partnership with the Guam Women’s Chamber of Commerce, is proud to announce a new program aimed at empowering women entrepreneurs and helping them achieve their dreams.

The Elevate-HER Pitch program is an exciting opportunity for women-owned businesses to pitch their entrepreneurial ideas before a judging panel with the chance to win an exciting prize package including \$5,000 in seed money from Bank of Guam, \$5,000 worth of advertising credit for TV, radio or digital from KUAM Communications, and a 1-year membership in the Guam Women’s Chamber of Commerce.

The goal of the program is to empower female entrepreneurs, at any stage of their business journey, by providing the tools, confidence, and platform needed to clearly and effectively present their professional goals and value propositions.

Imagine a “business pitch competition” experience, but with a local twist—before a judging panel of accomplished businesswomen and in front of over 300 attendees at Fanachu Famalão’an 2024: Elevate-HER, the GWCC’s signature women’s summit scheduled for Thursday, Sept. 19, 2024, at the Dusit Thani Guam Resort.

Fanachu Famalão’an attendees will also have the opportunity to vote for their favorite pitch via a live audience poll to determine “The People’s Choice” award. Along with the grand prize, the program allows participants to engage with other professionals in workshops and coaching sessions.

Bank of Guam started as a dream over 52 years ago, built on a grassroots approach of helping our local people and businesses with their financial needs. Today, that same spirit drives us to support and empower local businesses and entrepreneurs. This Elevate-HER Pitch program is more than a competition, it’s a platform for empowerment, a space for inspiration, and an opportunity to showcase what Guam’s women entrepreneurs bring to the table. We understand what it takes to turn dreams into a reality, and we’re here to help women succeed and take their business ideas to the next level.

“We’re excited to partner with Bank of Guam on the Elevate-HER Pitch Program as it perfectly aligns with our mission to advance women in business through advocacy, networking, mentorship, and access to resources. We thank Bank of Guam for putting this program together as it will inspire, uplift, and open doors for women entrepreneurs, demonstrating that their ideas are valued and have the power to make a real impact,” said Maria Eugenia H. Leon Guerrero, executive vice president and chief operating officer of Bank of Guam and GWCC treasurer.

“Finalists will be evaluated based on their elevator pitch and presentation in several key criteria including clarity and persuasiveness, market opportunity, business model, and the potential for growth and impact,” said Rachel Davis, executive director, Guam Women’s Chamber of Commerce.

The application period opened last Thursday, Aug. 29, 2024, and closes on Sunday, Sept. 8, 2024. Applicants must be women entrepreneurs residing in Guam, with a majority women-owned and women-run business. The judging panel will review all applications and determine the top three finalists. Interested participants can complete the application form at bankofguam.com. For more information, email projectgive@bankofguam.com. (PR)

» **Women entrepreneurs will pitch their ideas at Fanachu Famalão’an**

Japan wants its hardworking citizens to try a 4-day workweek

TOKYO (AP)—Japan, a nation so hardworking its language has a term for literally working oneself to death, is trying to address a worrisome labor shortage by coaxing more people and companies to adopt four-day workweeks.

The Japanese government first expressed support for a shorter working week in 2021, after lawmakers endorsed the idea. The concept has been slow to catch on, however; about 8% of companies in Japan allow employees to take three or more days off per week, while 7% give their workers the legally mandated one day off, according to the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare.

Hoping to produce more takers, especially among small and medium-sized businesses, the government launched a “work style reform” campaign that promotes shorter hours and other flexible arrangements along with overtime limits and paid annual leave. The labor ministry recently started offering free consulting, grants and a growing library of success stories as further motivation.

“By realizing a society in which workers can choose from a variety of working styles based on their circumstances, we aim to create a virtuous cycle of growth and distribution and enable each and every worker to have a better outlook for the future,” states a ministry website about the “hatarakikata kaikaku” campaign, which translates to “innovating how we work.”

The department overseeing the new support services for businesses says only three companies have come forward so far to request advice on making changes, relevant regulations and available subsidies, illustrating the challenges the initiative faces.

Perhaps more telling: of the 63,000 Panasonic Holdings Corp. employees who are eligible for four-day schedules at the electronics maker and its group companies in Japan, only 150 employees have opted to take them, according to Yohei Mori, who oversees the initiative at one Panasonic company.

The government’s official backing of a better work-life balance represents a marked change in Japan, a country whose reputed culture of workaholic stoicism often got credited for the national recovery and stellar economic growth after World War II.

Conformist pressures to sacrifice for one’s company are intense. Citizens typically take vacations at the same time of year as their colleagues—during the Bon holidays in the summer and around New Year’s—so co-workers can’t accuse them of being neglectful or uncaring.

Long hours are the norm. Although 85% of employers report giving their workers two days off a week and there are legal restrictions on overtime hours, which are negotiated with labor unions and detailed in contracts. But some Japanese do “service overtime,” meaning it’s unreported and performed without compensation.

Nation

Harris and Trump offer different visions on climate change, energy

WASHINGTON (AP)—As the Earth sizzled through a summer with four of the hottest days ever measured, Vice President Kamala Harris and former President Donald Trump have starkly different visions on how to address a changing climate while ensuring a reliable energy supply. But neither has provided many details on how they would get there.

During her acceptance speech at the Democratic National Convention, Harris briefly mentioned climate change as she outlined “fundamental freedoms” at stake in the election, including “the freedom to breathe clean air and drink clean water and live free from the pollution that fuels the climate crisis.”

As vice president, Harris cast the tiebreaking vote on the Inflation Reduction Act, President Joe Biden’s landmark climate law that was approved with only Democratic support. As a senator from California, she was an early sponsor of the Green New Deal, a sweeping series of proposals meant to swiftly move the United States to fully green energy that is championed by the party’s most progressive wing.

Trump, meanwhile, led chants of “drill, baby, drill” and pledged to dismantle the Biden administration’s “green new scam” in his acceptance speech at the Republican National Convention. He has vowed to boost production of fossil fuels such as oil, natural gas and coal and repeal key parts of the 2022 climate law.

“We have more liquid gold under our feet than any other country by far,” Trump said at the convention. “We are a nation that has the opportunity to make an absolute fortune with its energy.”

‘Climate champion’ or unfair regulations?

Environmental groups, which largely back Harris, call her a “proven climate champion” who will take on Big Oil and build on Biden’s climate legacy, including policies that boost electric vehicles and limit planet-warming pollution from coal-fired power plants.

“We won’t go back to a climate denial in the Oval Office,” said Lena Moffitt, executive director of Evergreen Action.

Republicans counter that

Biden and Harris have spent four years adopting “punishing regulations” that target American energy while lavishing generous tax credits for electric vehicles and other green priorities that cost taxpayers billions of dollars.

“This onslaught of overreaching and outrageous climate rules will shut down power plants and increase energy costs for families across the country,” said Sen. John Barrasso, R-Wyo. “Republicans will work to stop them and fight for solutions that protect our air and water and allow our economy to grow.”

Democrats have a clear edge on the issue. More than half of U.S. adults say they trust Harris “a lot” or “some” when it comes to addressing climate change, according to an Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research poll conducted in July. About 7 in 10 say they have “not much” trust in Trump or “none at all” when it comes to climate. Fewer than half say they lack trust in Harris.

A look at where the two candidates stand on key climate and energy issues:

Fracking and offshore drilling

Harris said during her short-lived 2020 presidential campaign that she opposed offshore drilling for oil and hydraulic fracturing, an oil and gas extraction process better known as fracking.

But her campaign has clarified that she no longer supports a ban on fracking, a common drilling practice crucial to the economy in Pennsylvania, a key swing state and the nation’s second-largest producer of natural gas.

“As vice president, I did not ban fracking. As president, I will not ban fracking,” Harris told CNN on Thursday in her first major television interview as the nominee. “We can grow ... a thriving clean energy economy without banning fracking.”

Kevin Book, managing director at ClearView Energy Partners, a Washington research firm, said Harris’ evolving views show she is “trying to balance climate voters and industry supporters,” even as her campaign takes “an adversarial

stance” with the oil and gas industry overall.

Harris and Democrats have cited new rules—authorized by the climate law—to increase royalties that oil and gas companies pay to drill or mine on public lands. She also has supported efforts to clean up old drilling sites and cap abandoned wells that often spew methane and other pollutants.

Trump, who pushed to roll back scores of environmental laws as president, says his goal is for the U.S. to have the cheapest energy and electricity in the world. He’d increase oil drilling on public lands, offer tax breaks to oil, gas and coal producers and speed approval of natural gas pipelines.

Electric vehicles

Trump has frequently criticized tough new vehicle emissions rules imposed by Biden, incorrectly labeling them an electric vehicle “mandate.” Environmental Protection Agency rules issued this spring target tailpipe emissions from cars and trucks and encourage but do not require sales of new EVs to meet the new standards.

Trump has said EV manufacturing will destroy jobs in the auto industry. In recent months, however, he has softened his rhetoric, saying he’s for “a very small slice” of cars being electric.

The change comes after Tesla CEO Elon Musk “endorsed me very strongly,” Trump said at an August rally in Atlanta. Even so, industry officials expect Trump to roll back Biden’s EV push and attempt to repeal tax incentives that Trump claims benefit China.

Harris has not announced an EV plan but has strongly supported EVs as vice president. At a 2022 event in Seattle, she celebrated roughly \$1 billion in federal grants to purchase about 2,500 “clean” school buses. As many as 25 million children ride the familiar yellow buses each school day, and they will have a healthier future with a cleaner fleet, Harris said.

The grants and other federal climate programs not only are aimed at “saving our children, but for them, saving our planet,” she said.

World

AFTER 6 MORE HOSTAGES DIE IN GAZA

Israelis erupt in protest to demand cease-fire

TEL AVIV, Israel (AP)—Tens of thousands of grieving and angry Israelis surged into the streets Sunday night after six more hostages were found dead in Gaza, chanting “Now! Now!” as they demanded that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu reach a cease-fire with Hamas to bring the remaining captives home.

The mass outpouring appeared to be the largest such demonstration in 11 months of war and protesters said it felt like a possible turning point, although the country is deeply divided.

Israel’s largest trade union, the Histadrut, further pressured the government by calling a general strike for Monday, the first since the Oct. 7 Hamas attack that started the war. It aims to shut down or disrupt major sectors of the economy, including banking, health care and the country’s main airport.

Cease-fire negotiations have dragged on for months. Many blame Netanyahu for failing to reach a deal, which



People block a road as they protest calling for a deal for immediate release of hostages held in the Gaza Strip by the Hamas militant group, in Tel Aviv, Sunday, Sept. 1, 2024. AP

opinion polls show a majority of Israelis favor. But the prime minister also has significant support for his strategy of “total victory” against Hamas, even if a deal for the hostages has to wait.

Thousands of people, some

of them weeping, gathered Sunday night outside Netanyahu’s office in Jerusalem. In Tel Aviv, hostages’ relatives marched with coffins to symbolize the toll.

“We really think that the government is making these

decisions for its own conservation and not for the lives of the hostages, and we need to tell them, ‘Stop!’” said Shlomit Hacohen, a Tel Aviv resident.

Three of the six hostages found dead—including an

Israeli-American—were reportedly scheduled to be released in the first phase of a cease-fire proposal discussed in July. This fueled fury and frustration among the protesters.

“Nothing is worse than knowing that they could have been saved,” said Dana Loutaly. “Sometimes it takes something so awful to shake people up and get them out into the streets.”

Chinese, PH vessels collide at disputed atoll

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)—China and the Philippines accused each other of causing a collision between their two vessels Saturday in the latest flareup of tensions over disputed waters and maritime features in the South China Sea.

In a statement posted on social media, Chinese coast guard spokesperson Liu De-jun was quoted as saying that a Philippine ship maneuvered and “deliberately collided” with a Chinese coast guard ship “in an unprofessional and dangerous manner.”

Philippine officials in Manila said it was their coast guard ship, the BRP *Teresa Magbanua*, that was rammed thrice by the Chinese coast guard without any provocation, causing damage to the Philippine vessel.

It was the second confrontation in days near Sabina Shoal, about 140 kilometers (85 miles) west of the Philippine province of Palawan, in the internationally recognized exclusive economic zone of the Philippines.

The Philippine ship, the *Magbanua*, has been anchored in Sabina since mid-April after Manila suspected that China may construct a structure to seize the uninhabited atoll. China harbored the same suspicions and recently filed a diplomatic protest against the Philippines due to the ship’s prolonged presence at the shoal.

China is rapidly expanding its military and has become increasingly assertive in pursuing its claim to virtually the entire South China Sea, which is crucial to international trade. The tensions have led to more frequent confrontations, primarily with the Philippines, and could drag in with the United States, which is bound by a treaty to defend the Philippines. The longtime territorial disputes also involve other claimants including Vietnam, Taiwan, Malaysia and Brunei.

China has rejected a ruling by a U.N.-backed arbitration panel that negated almost all of its historically based claims in the South China Sea.

Russia says it downed over 150 drones in 1 of biggest Ukrainian drone attacks of war

Russian air defenses intercepted and destroyed 158 Ukrainian drones overnight, including two over Moscow and nine over the surrounding region, the Defense Ministry said Sunday.

Forty-six of the drones were over the Kursk region, where Ukraine has sent its forces in recent weeks in the largest incursion on Russian soil since World War II. A further 34 were shot over the Bryansk region, 28 over the Voronezh region, and 14 over the Belgorod region—all of which border Ukraine.

Drones were also shot down deeper into Russia, including one each in the Tver region, northwest of Moscow, and the Ivanovo region, northeast of the Russian capital. Russia’s Defense Ministry said drones were intercepted over 15 regions, while one other governor said a drone was shot down over his region, too.

Moscow Mayor Sergei Sobyanin said that falling debris from one of the two drones shot down over the city caused a fire at an oil refinery.

Ukrainian drone strikes have brought the fight far from the front line into the heart of Russia. Since the beginning of the year, Ukraine has stepped up aerial assaults on Russian soil, targeting refineries and oil terminals to slow down the Kremlin’s assault.

Also in Russia, regional Gov. Vyacheslav Gladkov said 11 people were wounded in Ukrainian aerial missile attacks in the Russian border region of Belgorod on Sunday. These included eight in the regional capital, also called Belgorod.

Meanwhile, Russia’s Defense Ministry said Sunday it had taken control of the towns of Pivnichne and Vyimka, in Ukraine’s Donetsk region. The Associated Press could not independently verify the claim.

Russian forces have been driving deeper into the partly occupied eastern region, the total capture of which is one of the Kremlin’s primary ambitions. Russia’s army is closing in on Pokrovsk, a critical logistics hub for the Ukrainian defense in the area. **(AP)**

Commemorate the
essence of a life well-lived and
honor the legacy of your loved ones
with an **Obituary** in the Saipan Tribune.

Our affordable rates include our expert
design services and a permanent online
space on the saipantribune.com.

For inquiries, please contact our advertising
specialists at (670) 235-8747 or
sales@saipantribune.com

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Life & Style

‘Deadpool’ tops box office charts yet again

By KAITLYN HUAMANI
Associated Press

Just like in the movies, Deadpool can’t be killed. “Deadpool & Wolverine,” one of the defining movies of the summer, ruled the box office on a week-end with quiet openings and low theater attendance as the summer movie season came to an anticlimactic close.

For the second weekend in a row, “Deadpool & Wolverine,” Marvel’s smash hit that has shattered records and become the best-selling R-rated movie of all time, topped the charts, with other holdovers from the summer following behind. After six weeks in theaters, the film made \$15.2 million domestically Friday

through Sunday, and it’s expected to cross the domestic \$600 million mark following Monday’s Labor Day holiday. The Ryan Reynolds and Hugh Jackman superhero flick will be one of only 16 titles to hit that milestone.

» As ‘Reagan’ beats expectations on sluggish Labor Day weekend

“Reagan,” a biopic starring Dennis Quaid as the 40th U.S. president, was the only new release competitive with hold-over films that opened earlier this summer. Exceeding projections, the first full-length film about President Ronald Reagan earned \$7.4 million over the three-day weekend, with an estimated cumulative total of \$9.2 million including projections for Monday.

Audiences have reacted to the movie positively, giving



This image released by ShowBiz Direct shows Dennis Quaid in a scene from “Reagan.”

it an A CinemaScore and a 98% audience score on Rotten Tomatoes. Critics have been less receptive, giving it a 19% rating and deeming it rotten on the popular ratings site. It ranked No. 4 on the charts.

The summer movie sea-

son, which runs from Memorial Day through Labor Day, proved to be full of surprises, flops and overperformers. “Deadpool,” “Despicable Me 4,” “Inside Out 2,” and “Twisters” brought in impressive earnings and remained on

the charts for several weeks after their releases, with all four titles claiming spots in the top 10 Labor Day weekend.

“If you were to write up a blueprint of perhaps the most unpredictable summer ever, 2024 might be just that,” said Paul Dergarabedian, senior media analyst at Comscore. “May gave us a challenge, but June, July and the beginning of August really delivered.”

The cumulative summer box office clocked in at over \$3.6 billion domestically—a dip of 10% from 2023’s \$4 billion season that could likely be attributed to the “Barbenheimer” box office craze that drew crowds en masse to see “Barbie” and “Oppenheimer” last summer.

The close of the season brought what Dergarabedian described as a “stranglehold” of familiar summer hits on box

office rankings, with “Alien: Romulus” and “It Ends With Us” rounding out the top three for the second weekend in a row. Six of the top 10 films of the weekend had been playing for three or more weeks.

“Alien: Romulus” placed second, earning \$9.3 million from Friday through Sunday. The sci-fi horror film directed by Fede Álvarez and starring Cailee Spaeny, Isabela Merced and David Jonsson, has earned \$88.8 million domestically.

“It Ends With Us” ranked No. 3 for the third consecutive weekend, earning just over \$7.4 million with a slight edge over “Reagan.” The Sony movie starring Blake Lively and Justin Baldoni, who also directed, is projected to reach a domestic total of \$136 million after the weekend.

Doctor charged in connection with Matthew Perry’s death appears in court after plea deal

LOS ANGELES (AP)—One of two doctors charged in connection with Matthew Perry’s death made his first appearance in a federal court in Los Angeles on Friday after reaching a deal to plead guilty and cooperate with prosecutors.

Dr. Mark Chavez, 54, of San Diego, stood in court with his lawyer and told a judge he understood his rights. U.S. Magistrate Judge Jean P. Rosenbluth told him he could remain free on bond with several restrictions, including turning over his passport and

not working as a doctor. He has agreed to turn over his medical license.

Chavez signed an agreement with prosecutors earlier this month to plead guilty to conspiring to distribute the surgical anesthetic ketamine. He did not enter his guilty plea or speak about the case, which he will do with another judge at a date to be determined.

“He’s incredibly remorseful, not just because it happened to Matthew Perry, but because it happened to a patient,” Chavez’s lawyer Matthew Binnering said outside

court with the doctor standing at his side. “He’s trying to do everything in his power to right the wrong that happened here. He didn’t accept responsibility today, but only because it wasn’t on the calendar.”

Binnering added, “He’s doing everything in his power to cooperate and help with this situation.”

Asked what he and Chavez would say to Perry’s family, Binnering said, “I’m afraid I can’t answer that question other than to say that we’re incredibly sorry that someone lost their life. It doesn’t matter that he was a famous



Dr. Mark Chavez, a physician from San Diego, who is charged in connection with actor Matthew Perry’s death from an accidental ketamine overdose, arrives at the Roybal Federal Courthouse in Los Angeles, Friday, Aug. 30, 2024.

celebrity, and I know that he was incredibly universally loved by all. It’s a shame at what happened.”

Chavez would be the third person to plead guilty in the aftermath of the “Friends” star’s fatal overdose last year.

Chavez also agreed to cooperate with prosecutors as they pursue others, including the doctor Chavez worked with to sell ketamine to Perry. Also working with the U.S. Attorney’s Office are Perry’s assistant, who admitted to helping him obtain and inject ketamine, and a Perry acquaintance, who admitted to acting as a drug messenger and middleman.

Wife endures wild swings in husband’s personality

DEAR ABBY: Eight years ago, my husband of 26 years had a stroke, and his personality changed. He was difficult to deal with, but, with time, his old personality came back, and things got better.

Two years ago, he finally kicked a longtime prescription drug habit. Our finances improved almost overnight (for which I am grateful), but his personality changed again. This change has been neither pleasant nor easy to deal with. Some days, he gets angry with me for talking to him about even the simplest things, like traffic or the weather.

Don’t get me wrong—I don’t want him to go back to abusing drugs, but I want my best friend back. For at least a year now, I’ve been begging him to go to marriage counseling with me. He says he will but has put no effort into finding a counselor. He grew up in the small town we live in, so I want him to choose the counselor because I may accidentally choose someone he knows and doesn’t want to talk to.

I’m afraid he will never make an appointment, so should I just find a counselor for myself? I don’t want to throw away 26 years of marriage, but some days, all I think about is running away.

SADDENED ON THE EAST COAST

DEAR SADDENED: I don’t know what could be the

cause of your husband’s anger, and neither will you until you get to the bottom of it. Do not allow the fact that he is stalling prevent you from consulting a licensed marriage and family therapist.

Compile a list of counseling services not only in your town but also some neighboring communities. Once you have the names, show the list to your husband and ask if he knows any of them. Then make an appointment for both of you with one or MORE therapists and interview them. If he refuses to accompany you, go on your own.

DEAR ABBY: Not long ago, my husband replaced the key entry lock on the front door of our house with a digital one. Ever since, the door does not latch when you go in or out. (It “bounces” and doesn’t catch.) I’ve told him it needs to be fixed, but he insists I need to “just pull it.” Abby, this door always latched before. Workers come in and out of the house, and I’m very concerned.

My husband is fighting me tooth and nail on this for some odd reason, and I’m ready to leave him. I told him I will get the door fixed (on his credit card) if he doesn’t do it. He still refuses. I’m done! I want a secure front door. What the hell is wrong here? We’ve been married 40 years. Do you recommend a divorce attorney?

UNSAFE IN TEXAS

DEAR ABBY
BY ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



DEAR UNSAFE: I do not recommend a divorce attorney. You deserve to feel safe in your own home. Stop fighting with your husband, become proactive and get the darn door fixed. Because he won’t help, remember the adage, “If you want something done right, do it yourself,” then step forward and take charge.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: “Abby’s Favorite Recipes” and “More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby.” Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$16 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

COPYRIGHT 2024 ANDREWS MCMEEL SYNDICATION

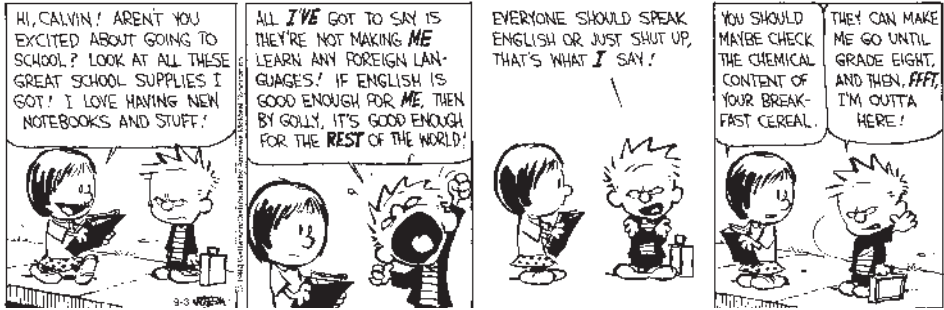
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

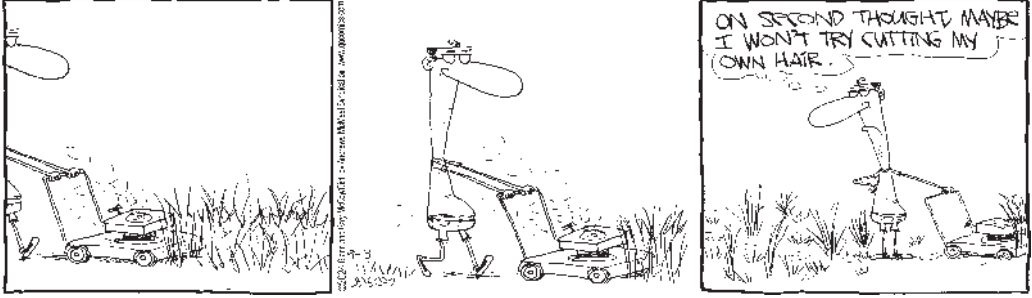


Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

- 1 Shirt protectors
- 5 Turkish title
- 8 Colony denizens
- 12 Leer at
- 13 Collar
- 14 Be furious
- 15 Yuletide tune
- 16 Macabre
- 18 In a brusque way
- 20 As good as new, health-wise
- 21 Rage
- 22 "It's c-c-cold!"
- 23 "The Climb" singer
- 26 Resentments
- 30 Omega precursor
- 31 Soup legume
- 32 Previously
- 33 Swiss cheese
- 36 Greek sandwiches

DOWN

- 1 Head shop purchase
- 2 Composer
- 3 —
- 4 Arm's-length portrait
- 5 Point of view
- 6 Indiana city
- 7 Dhahi
- 8 Ridiculous
- 9 Former queen of Jordan
- 10 Runner's stat
- 11 Santa's ride
- 17 Beige
- 19 Saute
- 22 Bikini half
- 23 Fuel stat
- 24 Leb. neighbor
- 25 Lucy of "Kill Bill"
- 26 "Gosh!"
- 27 Needle-fish
- 28 Conceit
- 29 "Help!"
- 31 Expert
- 34 Bumpkins
- 35 Daring
- 36 Bearded antelope
- 37 Saudi neighbor
- 39 Quarrel
- 40 Pride parade initialism
- 41 La Scala melody
- 42 Mon. follower
- 43 Squirrels do it
- 44 Pitt of "Troy"
- 45 Not pre-recorded
- 46 "May It Be" singer
- 48 Mineral suffix

Solution time: 22 mins.

Yesterday's answer 9-3

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Rita Volk, 34; Shaun White, 38; Omi, 38; Garrett Hedlund, 40.

Happy Birthday: Don't take anything for granted. Do your homework, and set and stay within boundaries. Talk is cheap, so follow through and complete your plans to avoid being misunderstood or ignored. Make this the year of transformation, not innuendos. Step out of your comfort zone and commit to doing what you say. Revise your calendar to project the outcome you want to achieve. Your numbers are 8, 11, 15, 23, 31, 36, 44.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Look closer at a situation before you act. It's important to know what and who you are up against and to direct your energy appropriately. A misconception will give you a false sense of what's possible. Consider how time-consuming it is, along with the emotional and financial costs. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Adjust to the changes around you. The less fuss, the easier it will become to satisfy your soul and to put your heart into something that matters to you. It's how you perceive and respond to situations that make the difference. Actions are proof that you follow through. ****

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Distance yourself from what you cannot change and focus on improving your life. Adjusting your skills and attributes to blend in flawlessly with new trends will open doors. Make sure everything you promise is doable to avoid criticism. Sign up to learn something new or to expand your qualifications. **

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Establish what you enjoy doing most and find a way to turn it into additional income. Get your house in order, and you'll feel at peace. Put money

matters to rest by selling items you no longer use. You have more resources than you realize. ****

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Take the uncertainty out of any situation by asking direct questions and giving straight answers. Facts are your route to reforming, replacing and revitalizing your path forward with honesty and a chance to make a positive difference. Personal growth will help transform your life. ***

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Monitor what others do and say. A problem at work or in your community that influences your position or reputation is best averted quickly. Control your emotions and speak the truth; you'll overrule anyone trying to make you look bad. Don't let uncertainty interfere with authenticity. ***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): An open mind and compassionate heart will get you through anything you encounter. Use common sense and bounce your ideas off people you trust to give you an honest opinion. Stop worrying about your approval ratings and start trying to please yourself. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): As long as you keep changing your mind, it is best not to make a move. Focus on getting things done before you venture down a new path. Check out an activity or event that captures your attention. What and who you encounter will offer valid considerations. ****

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Re-think your plans and eliminate any action fueled by someone else's wants. It's you who must be happy with your path forward. Choose what makes you content with yourself, your lifestyle and the company you keep. Self-improvement is within reach. ***

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COPYRIGHT 2007
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Take the train that leads to financial gain, a better lifestyle and a healthier attitude. Don't abuse yourself to amuse others or to fit in with the wrong crowd. Surround yourself with positivity and a plan that ensures you do and achieve the best outcome possible. ****

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Spend more time sourcing how to look and feel your best. Whether you implement a healthy, active daily routine, give yourself more time to unwind or recover, or concentrate on something that brings you joy, it will encourage greater clarity and a pathway to follow. ***

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): A shift will help you avoid a run-in with someone. Expect matters to get blown out of proportion and no improvements to be made if anger takes over. Use your imagination, be innovative and do your best to get along with others or offer them the freedom you want in return. ***

Birthday Baby: You are sensitive, helpful and ambitious. You are changeable and timely.

☾: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ☼: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ☼☼: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ☼☼☼: Aim high; start new projects. ☼☼☼☼: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

Difficulty: ★★ 9/3

©2012 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

WONDERWORD By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

ONLINE PRIVACY POLICIES Solution: 5 letters

SSYTEFASTOREDEE
SSHNI GOLTNUOCCA
EEEAASDOITTWYIID
TCLRRRUSCNBTNVV
ACFUDEEEALEOTEEE
LAOERDTORNETMDR
PERSONALORAAEFT
MRUCODEINDIBIST
EEMCAGTERLLHTS
TGMTAATOSEEEIHE
YIARLPWEGEDTSG
PSOUOSPAGOCCLTI
ETGESFLSWALUORB
SEMANRESUSPBRFO
RRPHOTOGRAPHYEM

© 2024 Andrews McMeel Syndication www.wonderword.com 9/3

Access, Account, Address, Advertise, Apps, Audit, Blog, Codes, Contact, Cyber, Data, Date, Device, Download, Email, File, Folder, Form, Forum, History, Internet, Laws, Legal, Login, Mobile, Notes, Notice, Order, Page, Password, Personal, Photograph, Register, Regulation, Rights, Rules, Safety, Secure, Share, Storage, Store, Tablet, Template, Type, Username

Yesterday's Answer: Antennae

For WONDERWORD apps, books & more, visit Wonderword.com, or call 1-855-232-2367.

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

Mets win as White Sox set franchise record with 107th loss



CHICAGO

(AP)—Sean Manaea pitched two-hit ball over seven innings, Francisco Lindor belted his 29th home run and the New York Mets beat Chicago 2-0 on Sunday to hand the White Sox their franchise-record 107th loss.

Chicago (31-107) broke the club mark for losses set by the 1970 team. The White Sox also completed the first 0-10 homestand in franchise history, becoming the first team since the 1965 Mets to have three 10-game losing streaks in one season.

Lindor gave New York a 1-0 lead when he connected leading off the fourth against Garrett Crochet. Starling Marte drove an RBI double off the center-field wall against Justin Anderson in the ninth, and the Mets squeezed out their fourth straight win and ninth in 13 games to finish a 7-3 trip. They came in trailing Atlanta by two games for the final NL wild card.

Manaea (11-5) struck out five, walked two and hit a batter with a pitch. The left-hander is 3-0 in his last four outings, and New York has won 12 of his past 15 starts.

REDS 4, BREWERS 3, 11 INNINGS

CINCINNATI (AP)—Santiago Espinal drove in Reese Hinds with an infield single in the 11th inning, and Cincinnati stopped Milwaukee's five-game win streak with a victory over the Brewers.

Hinds began the inning on second as the designated runner. He advanced on Will Benson's groundout, and Reds manager David Bell sent Espinal up to hit for Noeivi Marte.

Espinal hit a grounder back up the middle that went off reliever Bryse Wilson (5-4), and Hinds scored without a throw.

CUBS 14, NATIONALS 1 WASHINGTON

(AP)—Dansby Swanson had four hits, Jordan Wicks pitched five solid innings and the Chicago Cubs beat Washington for their season-high sixth consecutive win.

Isaac Paredes had three RBIs for the Cubs, who finished with 18 hits. Cody Bellinger, Nico Hoerner and Miguel Amaya each drove in two runs.

Chicago closed out an 8-1 road trip that also included stops in Miami and Pittsburgh. The Cubs (71-66), who are looking to rally into an NL wild-card slot, improved to 20-8 since July 31.

CARDINALS 14, YANKEES 7

NEW YORK (AP)—Jordan



New York Mets' Francisco Lindor, left, celebrates with Brandon Nimmo, right, after they defeated the Chicago White Sox in a baseball game in Chicago, Sunday, Sept. 1, 2024.

Walker went 5 for 5, Lars Nootbaar hit a bases-clearing two-strike double in the seventh and added a two-run homer in the ninth as St. Louis beat the New York Yankees.

Walker hit a long two-run homer in the fifth and drove in three runs. Walker had the first five-hit game by a Cardinal since Matt Carpenter in 2018 after going 1 for 8 in his first two games following his recall from Triple-A Memphis.

Nootbaar followed Walker's fourth hit by lifting a fly ball to right field. New York's Juan Soto appeared to struggle getting a read on the ball, ran back and the ball went over him as the Cardinals took a 10-7 lead.

Victor Scott II hit an RBI double and scored on a throwing error by reliever Phil Bickford as the Cardinals set season highs for runs and hits (21) and were 8 for 18 with runners in scoring position.

Nootbaar blasted his ninth homer after Walker opened the ninth with his fourth single.

TIGERS 4, RED SOX 1

DETROIT (AP)—Spencer Torkelson and Riley Greene each hit a two-run homer, and Detroit beat Boston.

The Tigers (70-68) earned their second series win in the last 13 against Boston and won the season series for the first time since 2017. They trail the Red Sox (70-67) by a half-game for fourth in the AL wild-card race.

Brant Hurter (3-1) pitched five innings of one-run ball for the win. He entered with two on and one out in the second and got Willyer Abreu to bounce into a double play.

Jason Foley, the fourth Tigers pitcher, got his 20th save with a perfect ninth.

Red Sox opener Cooper

Criswell pitched four perfect innings, striking out five. But Rich Hill (0-1) and Zack Kelly faltered.

GUARDIANS 6, PIRATES 1

CLEVELAND (AP)—Kyle Manzardo hit his first two major league homers, Alex Cobb did not allow a baserunner through the first six innings and AL Central-leading Cleveland beat Pittsburgh.

Manzardo, recalled from Triple-A Columbus before the game, homered in the fourth and sixth against Pittsburgh starter Mitch Keller. Manzardo batted .207 in 30 games earlier this season during his initial MLB stint.

José Ramírez and Andrés Giménez also went deep as the Guardians hit four solo homers and improved their AL-best home record to 43-25. They lead the division by three games over Kansas City, which was playing at Houston.

PADRES 4, RAYS 3

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP)—Xander Bogaerts hit a go-ahead sacrifice fly in the ninth inning, and San Diego beat Tampa Bay.

Jackson Merrill had a two-run homer for the Padres, who are in a close race with Arizona for the first NL wild card. The rookie has 79 RBIs.

Jake Cronenworth drew San Diego's 10th walk leading off the ninth against Manuel Rodríguez (3-4) and went to third on Manny Machado's single. Bogaerts made it 4-3 on his drive to deep center.

Tanner Scott (9-5) worked out of a two-on, one-out jam in the eighth before Robert Suarez did the same in the ninth to get his 21st save in 23 chances.

ASTROS 7, ROYALS 2

HOUSTON (AP)—Yordan Alvarez homered twice and Jon Singleton added a two-run shot as Houston completed a four-game sweep of Kansas City.

It's Houston's fifth straight win overall and comes after the Royals swept a three-game series against the AL West leaders at home in April.

Kansas City, second in the AL Central behind Cleveland, lots its fifth straight game, its longest skid of the season.

It's the sixth multi-homer game for Alvarez this season and his second this week after the Cuban slugger tied a career high with three home runs in Wednesday's 10-0 rout of the NL East-leading Philadelphia Phillies.

TWINS 4, BLUE JAYS 3

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Royce Lewis hit a go-ahead three-run home run in the eighth inning and Minnesota rallied to beat Toronto.

Bailey Ober started and pitched six solid innings, and Jhoan Duran earned his 20th save for Minnesota, which is 3 1/2 games behind AL Central-leading Cleveland.

Ernie Clement homered for Toronto, which lost for the fourth time in six games.

Trailing 3-1 heading into the eighth inning, Ryan Jeffers and Austin Martin singled off Blue Jays closer Chad Green (4-4) before Lewis punctuated an eight-pitch at-bat by sending a 2-2 slider 361 feet, just over the wall and into the flower bed that separates the first row of seats from the wall in left field. Green had been a perfect 16 for 16 in save opportunities this season.

RANGERS 6, ATHLETICS 4, 10

INNINGS

ARLINGTON, Texas

(AP)—Josh Jung hit a three-run homer off All-Star closer Mason Miller in the 10th inning as Texas beat Oakland.

The Rangers won in walk-off fashion for the second game in a row, and the fifth time in their six home wins since Aug. 5.

Miller (1-2), the winning pitcher for the American League in the All-Star Game in Texas this summer, worked a scoreless ninth and got the first two outs in the 10th before Adolis García hit an RBI single and Wyatt Langford walked. Jung then drove a 101.7 mph fastball the opposite way and just inside the right-field pole for his fifth homer.

Oakland had gone ahead in the 10th against Matt Festa (3-1), who struck out the first two batters he faced before Seth Brown hit a tiebreaking RBI triple and Zack Gelof followed with a double.

ORIOLES 6, ROCKIES 1

DENVER (AP)—Zach Eflin struck out nine in seven sparkling innings and James McCann homered, helping Baltimore beat Colorado.

Gunnar Henderson had two hits and two RBIs for Baltimore, which had dropped three of four. Anthony Santander also had two hits.

The Orioles (79-59) closed out a 3-3 trip and moved within a half-game of the AL East-leading New York Yankees, who lost 14-7 to St. Louis.

Eflin (10-7) allowed one run and four hits. He has won all five of his starts for Baltimore since he was acquired in a trade with Tampa Bay on July 26. The right-hander was activated from the 15-day injured list before the game after being sidelined by shoulder inflammation.

MARLINS 7, GIANTS 5

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Griffin Conine hit his first career home run and Miami beat San Francisco.

Conine, the son of longtime Marlins stalwart Jeff Conine, made his major league debut Monday and got his first hit Tuesday. His first homer was a two-run shot off the right-field foul pole in the second inning, when he ripped a fastball up in the zone from Giants starter Mason Black to give Miami a 2-0 lead.

The Giants (68-69) remained 6 1/2 games out of a National League playoff spot, with four teams to climb over.

Michael Conforto homered in the eighth for the Giants to cut the deficit to 4-3, but Calvin Faucher retired the side in order in the ninth

for his fifth save.

ANGELS 3, MARINERS 2

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP)—Caden Dana became the youngest pitcher in Angels history to win his major league debut as the Los Angeles Angels rallied for a 3-2 victory over Seattle.

Taylor Ward extended his hitting streak to 12 games with a leadoff homer and Anthony Rendon provided the go-ahead hit with a two-run single in the fifth inning.

Dana (1-0) allowed two runs and two hits in six innings. At 20 years, 259 days old, the right-hander was the youngest Angels pitcher since reliever Francisco Rodríguez in 2002 and youngest starter since Frank Tanana in 1973.

Luke Raley homered for Seattle, which dropped to 5-4 since Dan Wilson replaced Scott Servais as manager on Aug. 22.

DIAMONDBACKS 14, DODGERS 3

PHOENIX (AP)—Randal Grichuk hit a three-run homer in Arizona's eight-run second inning, Brandon Pfaadt struck out 10 and Arizona routed the Los Angeles Dodgers.

The Dodgers won the series' first two games by jumping on Arizona early.

The Diamondbacks returned the favor in bashing fashion on Sunday, sending 11 batters to the plate against Justin Wrobleksi (1-2) in the second inning.

Eugenio Suárez homered and had two RBIs, and Gerardo Perdomo hit a two-run double in Arizona's big inning. Pfaadt (9-7) was solid after being staked to the big early lead, helping Arizona move back within five games of the Dodgers in the NL West.

PHILLIES 4, BRAVES 3, 11 INNINGS

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Nick Castellanos hit a game-winning single in the 11th and Philadelphia's bullpen pitched five scoreless innings in relief of Aaron Nola to lead the Phillies past Atlanta in the final regular-season meeting between the top two teams in the NL East.

Castellanos provided all the offense for the Phillies, helping them take three of four in the series to extend their division lead to seven games. He tied it in the sixth with a two-run double off starter Spencer Schwellenbach, then ended the game with a two-out single off Grant Holmes.

Carlos Estévez (3-4) pitched the 10th and 11th and retired all six batters he faced, stranding the automatic runner afforded Atlanta in both innings.

Chiefs' pursuit of 3-peat hot topic among many storylines entering 2024 season

By **ROB MAADDI**
AP Pro Football Writer

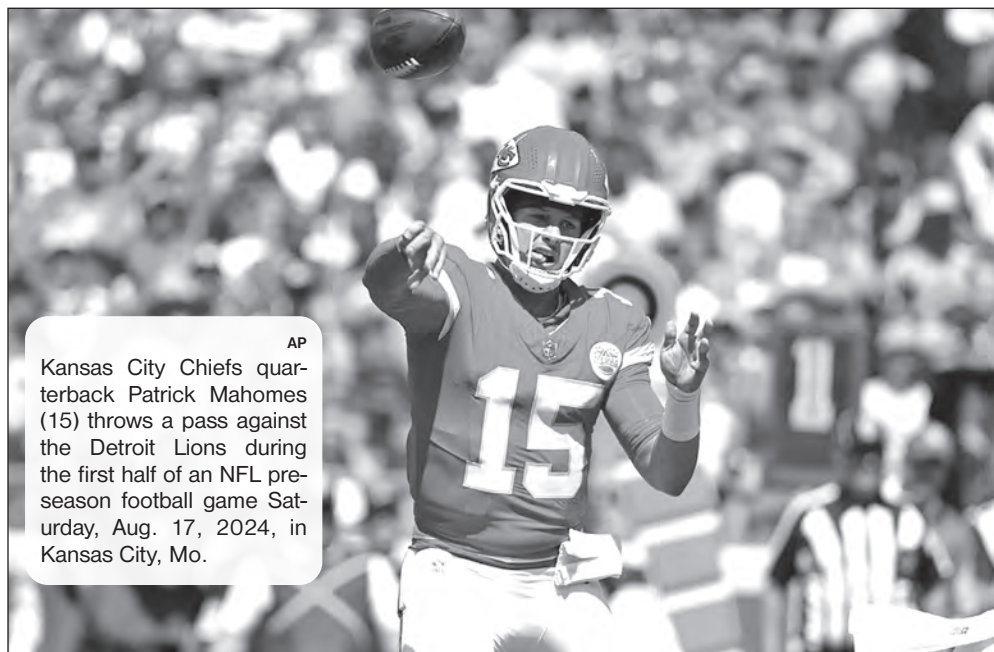
NFL Patrick Mahomes and the Chiefs chasing history will be the hottest topic throughout the NFL season.

Kansas City's three-peat quest is only one of many interesting storylines.

Aaron Rodgers is back in New York after his first season with the Jets lasted only four plays. The 40-year-old four-time NFL MVP is returning from a torn Achilles tendon and aiming to help the Jets end the league's longest active playoff drought.

No. 1 overall pick Caleb Williams takes over for the Bears, looking to end Chicago's lengthy search for a franchise quarterback.

Fellow rookie QB Jayden Daniels leads the Commanders, who begin their second season under a new ownership



AP
Kansas City Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes (15) throws a pass against the Detroit Lions during the first half of an NFL pre-season football game Saturday, Aug. 17, 2024, in Kansas City, Mo.

group that saved Washington from Dan Snyder.

Russell Wilson tries to revive his career in Pittsburgh, becoming the third different QB the Steelers turn to since Ben Roethlisberger last played

three years ago.

Jim Harbaugh returned to the NFL to coach the Los Angeles Chargers after winning a national title at Michigan. With Justin Herbert under center, Harbaugh doesn't have to

start from scratch.

His brother, John Harbaugh, and the Baltimore Ravens have unfinished business. Two-time NFL MVP Lamar Jackson led the Ravens to the league's best record, but they couldn't beat Mahomes and the Chiefs in the playoffs.

The pressure is on Josh Allen to deliver in Buffalo after the Bills lost in the divisional round for the third straight season.

The San Francisco 49ers' bid to return to the Super Bowl after falling just short against the Chiefs could be derailed by contract disputes. All-Pro left tackle Trent Williams and standout wide receiver Brandon Aiyuk still haven't resolved their issues.

Nick Sirianni stayed put in Philadelphia despite a late-season collapse that had the Eagles go from 10-1 to blown out by Tampa Bay in a wild-card game. Jalen Hurts is learning a new offensive system again but another playmaker, Saquon Barkley, joined a star-studded cast that surrounds him.

The Cowboys didn't do much in the offseason after another playoff failure. Coach Mike McCarthy enters the final season of his contract and Dak Prescott is planning to play out the last year of his

deal unless he gets an extension. Jerry Jones did open up his checkbook for All-Pro wide receiver CeeDee Lamb, ending a long holdout.

Dan Campbell's Lions are a popular pick to make their first trip to the Super Bowl after his fourth-down gambles cost Detroit a shot last season.

Jordan Love got paid in Green Bay and looks to build off his successful first season leading the Packers.

Trevor Lawrence also joined the \$55 million club (average annual salary) in Jacksonville. The Jaguars have to rebound from a disappointing finish after failing to reach the playoffs despite an 8-3 start.

C.J. Stroud took the Houston Texans from worst to first and now they seek to take another step in a packed AFC.

Deshaun Watson watched Joe Flacco lead the Browns to the playoffs and fans in Cleveland are running out of patience waiting for him to live up to expectations.

A healthy and blonde Joe Burrow is back in Cincinnati, giving the Bengals reason for optimism.

Kirk Cousins joined the Falcons along with new coach Raheem Morris, taking aim at dethroning the Buccaneers in the NFC South.

Tampa Bay is running it back after re-signing Baker Mayfield, Mike Evans and several key players from a team that far exceeded expectations last year.

The Dolphins made Tua Tagovailoa a \$53 million a year QB, putting faith in him to lead Miami to its first playoff win in 24 years.

Bill Belichick moved onto a television career with Jerod Mayo starting a new era in New England. The Patriots hope Drake Maye brings a fraction of Tom Brady's success.

The Broncos turn to rookie Bo Nix, who seems like a fit for Sean Payton's offense.

Antonio Pierce gets a full season in charge in Las Vegas

to show what he can do with the Raiders.

The Colts are counting on Anthony Richardson to stay healthy and put them in play-off contention.

Brian Callahan takes over in Tennessee as the rebuilding Titans give Will Levis a shot to be their quarterback of the future.

Daniel Jones and Brian Daboll have plenty to prove with the New York Giants.

The Vikings lost J.J. McCarthy for the season, assuring Sam Darnold gets yet another chance to be a No. 1 QB. He's got Justin Jefferson and more talent than he had with the Jets and Panthers.

As for Carolina, new coach Dave Canales is tasked with getting the best out of Bryce Young. He already did it for Mayfield and Geno Smith.

The Saints haven't been to the playoffs since Payton and Drew Brees left. Dennis Allen and Derek Carr may not get anymore chances in New Orleans if they don't get it done this season.

Kyler Murray and Marvin Harrison Jr. team up, making the Cardinals a sneaky team in the NFC.

Matthew Stafford remains with the Rams but Los Angeles must replace defensive superstar Aaron Donald. Sean McVay is coming off perhaps his best coaching season and nobody is doubting his ability to keep the team in the playoff mix.

The Seahawks begin a new era without Pete Carroll. Mike Macdonald leads a Seattle team that needed a new defensive approach.

Eighteen weeks and 272 games to determine the teams that'll play in January to figure out which two face off in February for the Vince Lombardi trophy.

All of it kicks off with the Ravens-Chiefs facing off in a rematch of the AFC championship game. Then it's the Eagles-Packers playing on a Friday night in the first NFL game in Brazil.

New Green Bay kicker already had family ties to Wisconsin before joining Packers

GREEN BAY, Wis. (AP)—Brayden Narveson might not have been the happiest person in his own family when the Green Bay Packers claimed him off waivers to make him their kicker.

The move represented a homecoming for Narveson's wife. Shelby Narveson grew up with a family full of Packers fans in Prescott, Wisconsin, just east of the Minnesota border and about 270 miles west of Green Bay.

"She's like, 'I'm going to be the coolest person in my hometown,'" Narveson said.

He went 6 of 7 on field-goal attempts with a long of 59 in a preseason audition with the Tennessee Titans, who are sticking with Nick Folk as their kicker this season. The Packers figured Narveson was a better option than incumbent Anders Carlson and Greg Joseph, who competed for the job in training camp.

Narveson praised the Titans for giving him a preseason opportunity. Even as he prepared to spend this season on Tennessee's practice squad, Narveson said Titans officials were letting him know there was a possibility he'd get claimed.

He ended up with the Packers, to his wife's delight. The Narvesons got married this summer in Mexico.

"When I called and told her I got claimed by the Packers, she was like, 'You've got to be kidding me,'" Narveson said. "She hung the phone up and called her parents immediately. So, she was probably

more excited than I was but, obviously, very thankful for me, as well."

Narveson will make his NFL regular-season debut Friday when the Packers open their season against the Philadelphia Eagles in Sao Paulo, Brazil.

Although he still hasn't attempted a field goal in an NFL game that counts, Narveson has made a positive first impression on his new team. Packers coach Matt LaFleur said he's seen enough from Narveson in two practices to feel confident in him.

"I just like his approach, his mentality," LaFleur said. "I can't wait to see what happens in the game."

Green Bay represents the latest stop for the well-traveled Narveson, who spent time at four different schools during his six-year college career. He spent two seasons at Iowa State and briefly transferred to San Diego before playing three seasons at Western Kentucky. He finished up at N.C. State last year.

"People can look at me and say that, 'Oh, what is he doing? He's going to four schools, this, that, and the other,'" Narveson said. "But ultimately I think it prepared me really, really well. It was like an NFL journey, you know? You go in, you compete. You go in and compete. You go in and every time I was at a new school I had to win a whole new audience over. And I had to go compete against new guys, right?"

"So it just put me in a whole

new frame of mind that every single day matters and every single time you step up on the field when you're between those white lines, you've got to be focused and you've got to win the job."

Narveson said playing at N.C. State last year helped get him ready for the NFL because he faced the pressure of taking over for Christopher Dunn, who had won the Lou Groza Award a year earlier as college football's top kicker.

He responded by going 18 of 23 on field-goal attempts last year and setting a school record with his 57-yarder against Duke.

Now he's dealing with even more pressure as he begins his NFL career on a team with Super Bowl aspirations. The Packers had one of the league's most stable kicking situations when Mason Crosby held the job from 2007-22 and became the franchise's career leading scorer.

Carlson struggled while trying to take over for Crosby as a rookie last year. The Packers are hoping Narveson can become more of a long-term solution.

"If somebody tells you they're not nervous, there's no pressure, they're lying to you or they don't care, in my opinion," Narveson said. "I think there's always pressure. Pressure's a privilege, in my opinion. Pressure means that you've done the right things at the right time to show everybody how hard you've worked. That's how I feel about it."

NFL places restrictions on Brady's broadcasting access due to pending Raiders ownership stake

Tom Brady's pending bid to become a part owner of the Las Vegas Raiders has triggered restrictions on his access to teams around the NFL as part of his role as a Fox Sports broadcaster, a league spokesman said Thursday.

Brady is not permitted to attend in-person or online broadcast production meetings and may not have access to team facilities, players or coaches. Fox staff is not subject to these limitations.

He also must abide by the

league constitution and bylaws that prohibit public criticism of officials and other clubs, but is allowed to broadcast Raiders games.

Brady, a seven-time Super Bowl-winning quarterback, is working with play-by-play announcer Kevin Burkhardt on Fox's top NFL broadcasting team. He signed a 10-year deal with the network in 2022, but this is Brady's first season announcing games.

His effort to become a

minority owner in the Raiders organization has been scrutinized by league owners since Brady put in his bid in May 2023. Owners didn't vote on the matter when they met in March in Orlando, Florida, because of concerns that Brady was receiving too much of a discount from Las Vegas majority owner Mark Davis.

Brady owns a piece of the WNBA's Las Vegas Aces, which also is owned by Davis. (AP)

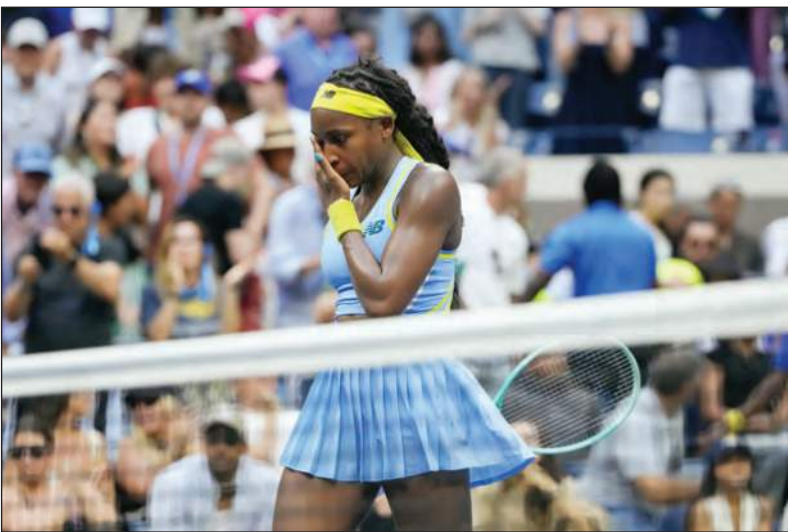
Gauff loses to Navarro, ending her title defense with 19 double-faults



NEW YORK (AP)—This is pretty much all anyone needs to know about defending champion Coco Gauff’s 6-3, 4-6, 6-3 loss to Emma Navarro in the U.S. Open’s fourth round on Sunday: Gauff wound up with more double-faults, 19, than winners, 14.

It was the latest in a series of early-for-her exits in recent weeks, including bowing out in the third round at the Paris Olympics, then going 1-2 at hard-court tuneup events before arriving in New York.

“I feel like there’s 70 other players in the draw that would love to have the summer that I had, even though it’s (the) least, probably, (I’ve) done well during this time



Coco Gauff, of the United States, reacts after losing to Emma Navarro, of the United States, during the fourth round of the U.S. Open tennis championships, Sunday, Sept. 1, in New York. 2024.

of the year,” said the No. 3-seeded Gauff, who went 18-1 during the North American swing on hard courts 12 months ago, including the run to her first Grand Slam title. “So many people want to be in the fourth round. So many people want to make the Olympics. So many people want to be flag bearer. It’s perspective.”

The 20-year-old from Florida did fight her way back into the match with a four-game run in which she claimed 14 of 17 points and grabbed the second set.

“Had a little bit of a lull there,” said the 13th-seeded Navarro, an American who was 0-2 at the U.S. Open until this year, “but I was able to regroup.”

After each of her past two con-

tests in New York, Gauff headed back out onto the practice courts to work on her serve. That didn’t help much on Sunday, when she tied her career high for double-faults: She also had 19 in a loss at the 2020 French Open. Against Navarro, Gauff delivered a trio of double-faults in four different games. Eleven of the double-faults came in the final set alone.

Gauff attributed her problems to a mix of issues with her mechanics—“I go down on my left side a lot on my serve, and it’s something I’m aware of, but it’s tough in the moment to, I guess, try not to do it,” she explained—and in her mind.

“It’s sometimes more of an emotional, mental thing, because if I go out on the practice court right now, I would make, like, 30 serves in a row. I’ve done it before,” Gauff said. “I think it’s also just kind of a mental hurdle that I have to get over when it comes. ... But I definitely want to look at other things, because I don’t want to lose matches like this anymore.”

She finished with a total of 60 unforced errors—a whopping 29 on her forehand side.

INAKA

From page 16

third was Tom Tudela’s *Sunriser* with a 3.6-lb catch; fourth was last year’s first place Edward Diaz’s *Nibbler* with a 3.5-lb catch; and fifth was Martin Camacho’s 3.35-lb haul aboard the *Carmen Santiago*.

The total weight (Mike’s Cup) winner was Team RJ, captained by George Moses at 5.7 lbs.

The side bet of \$360 was won by Mike Sablan’s *TKK2* with an 8.55-lb haul.

During the derby, board member Dave Guerrero said they were more than happy with the turnout as they were shooting for at least 40 boats to join the derby.

As for the ISLA’s sixth derby, president Keith Kintol said, “we pay respects to one of [ISLA’s] founding fathers, Mike Sablan. Although he’s not here with us, we know he’s there in spirit... This is our sixth annual—that’s a big milestone and we most especially thank our sponsors for the opportunity to continue this tournament again.”

Sponsors of the derby include



The total weight (Mike’s Cup) winning crew of Team RJ poses for a photo with their prizes during the awards ceremony of the 6th Annual I Sanhalom Laguna Anglers Association Mafuti Derby at the Smiling Cove Marina.

Triple J, Naked Fish, Poki Yaki, Tan Siu Lin Foundation, Bridge Capital LLC, TurnKey Solutions, and more. “We are very, very thankful. For the new businesses out there, we’d love

the opportunity to expose your business... This is a way to have an outlet for your business,” said Kintol.

The 7th Annual ISLA Mafuti Derby next year will most likely be

around the same time again.

ISLA was established in 2018 by a group of anglers that treat fishing as a way of life. The Mafuti Derby is restricted to the waters inside the Saipan lagoon and participating boats can’t exceed 17 feet in length.

KISS

From page 16

Ace’s hard-hitting Monterubio and Baquilles went to work and put a stop to it.

Errors on the Lady Starz’s side turned things around for Kiss My Ace, and they led once again, 17-15. Finally, they took it all the way home as they made consecutive points to secure the title, 25-20.

Baquilles, who was the captain of Kiss My Ace, said of the tournament, “it was very challenging because we had a small tournament in the summer, and they defeated us.” With how she felt about defeating them in the finals this time around, she said, “It feels good. There was a little bit of change for our team but it still worked out well.”

She added, “The teamwork was great. We had a lot of communication and adjustment because their team really stepped up too. It was challenging, but it was a good championship.”

Their strategy in the finals, she

said, was, “initially in the beginning, we tried to do how you would professionally position yourself at the back, which is the V shaped defense. But it didn’t work out, so we just went to our original plan, which is the W shape and it worked out well.”

She also said one of their assets this time around compared to the last tournament is that they didn’t have one of their strong regular players, Monterubio. “She was in and out of the island due to the military,” said Baquilles.

She then said of the tournament, “The 4 Starz were very organized. I know there were a lot of challenges, especially with the timing, because there were a lot of men’s teams. But we’re very thankful, especially for all the sponsors, and of course, 4 Starz for organizing this. I’m just thankful for everyone, especially the volleyball community, and everyone who joined. It’s good to see all volleyball lovers coming here and just experiencing this tournament.”

She added, “We really hope that the volleyball community will ex-

pand for the women and have more teams next time.”

4 Starz then thanked their family and friends, the Open Gym kids, and their sponsors Agape Christian School, Speaker Edmund Villagomez, Gov. Arnold I. Palacios and Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang, Alex and Neil, Yohei Iwashita and Anthony Yoshikawa, The Angry Penne, Inas Kitchen, Brabu Pharmacy, Pacific Islands Club, Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan, The Athlete’s Foot, McDonald’s of Saipan, Coca Cola, Hybrid, 3HIGH-RES, Mar Pac Distributors, Gold’s Gym, Latte Built Gym, and National Office Supply, and all the volunteers that helped referee, be a line judge, and assist in any way possible.

4 Starz is a volleyball group that was formed last year, with an homage to its president Nak Nakashima’s roots—the Federated States of Micronesia and Japan—hence the four stars within the sun of Japan’s flag in their logo. The four stars represent the four FSM states, Chuuk, Pohnpei, Kosrae, and Yap.

HIGH

From page 16

Edward Dela Cruz Jr. thanked their sponsors Cha Cafe, Atkins Kroll Saipan, IT&E, Aqua Resort Club, The Water Company, the Office of House Speaker Edmund Villagomez, the Office of Vice Speaker Joel Camacho, the Office of Rep. Thomas John Manglona, and the Office of Rep. Malcom Omar.

He also thanked their volunteers, race staff, partners: Northern Marianas Athletics, the Department of Public Safety, Marianas Visitors Authority, HD Weightlifting Academy, Saipan Southern High School Interact Club, American Red Cross-NMI Chapter, and Interact Club. And, he thanked *Saipan Tribune* and *Marianas Variety* for the coverage.

Age group divisions of the 5K and Half Marathon will be posted in the next issues of *Saipan Tribune*.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES				
MLB STANDINGS				
AMERICAN LEAGUE				
East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	79	58	.577	—
Baltimore	79	59	.572	1/2
Boston	70	67	.511	9
Tampa Bay	67	69	.493	11 1/2
Toronto	67	72	.482	13
Central Division				
Cleveland	78	59	.569	—
Minnesota	74	62	.544	3 1/2
Kansas City	75	63	.543	3 1/2
Detroit	70	68	.507	8 1/2
Chicago	31	107	.225	47 1/2
West Division				
Houston	75	62	.547	—
Seattle	69	68	.504	6
Texas	65	72	.474	10
Oakland	59	78	.431	16
Los Angeles	57	80	.416	18
NATIONAL LEAGUE				
East Division				
Philadelphia	81	56	.591	—
Atlanta	74	63	.540	7
New York	73	64	.533	8
Washington	61	76	.445	20
Miami	51	86	.372	30
Central Division				
Milwaukee	80	57	.584	—
Chicago	71	66	.518	9
St. Louis	69	68	.504	11
Cincinnati	65	73	.471	15 1/2
Pittsburgh	63	73	.463	16 1/2
West Division				
Los Angeles	82	55	.599	—
Arizona	77	60	.562	5
San Diego	78	61	.561	5
San Francisco	68	70	.493	14 1/2
Colorado	51	87	.370	31 1/2

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



**Mets win as
White Sox
set franchise
record with
107th loss**
PAGE 13

Saipan Tribune Sports

**Gauff loses to
Navarro, ending
her title defense
with 19 double-
faults**
PAGE 15



16 TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2024

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Inaka rules 6th Annual ISLA Mafuti Derby

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

There's a new winner of the I Sanhalom Laguna Anglers Association Mafuti Derby as *Inaka*, captained by Edward C. Sablan, ruled the sixth edition with the biggest catch at 8.25 lbs last Saturday at the Smiling Cove Marina.



Inaka came out on top out of 44 boats that joined this year's derby.

Second place was *4reel*, captained by Gregory Camacho, with their 4.7-lb mafuti;

See INAKA on Page 15



First place crew of *Inaka* poses with their 8.25-lb mafuti during their weigh in of the 6th Annual I Sanhalom Laguna Anglers Association Mafuti Derby at the Smiling Cove Marina.

FLOYD MASGA

High school seniors top Run Saipan 5K



LEIGH GASES

Jireh Wang sprints to first place overall in the Run Saipan 5K Fun Run held concurrently with the 3rd Annual Half Marathon last Saturday.

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



High school seniors Jireh Wang and Andrei Kaithlyn Chavez

started off their sports season early and with a bang by topping their respective divisions of the Run Saipan 5K Fun Run held concurrently with the 3rd Annual Half Marathon last Saturday.

The route was from the former Hyatt Regency Saipan's Club Elan parking lot and headed north, with the turnaround at the Pacific Trading Co.

Wang rushed into first place almost under 18 minutes at 18:03. Second was Victor Nash Santos at 19:02, and third was Takeru Jim at 19:06.

In the women's division, Chavez was first at 22:02, while second was Addalee Taflinger more than a minute

later at 23:24. Third went to Lydia Tan who clocked in at 26:15.

Wang, a student at Agape Christian School said of his first-place win, "it felt really good. I'm glad my training during the summer was put into effect." The course was the same as the 2024 Triple J 5K Bubble Color Run, which he joined and said that he was familiar with it.

He said the race was a good training opportunity for the all-schools cross-country season coming up.

For Chavez from Saipan International School, she said, "The 5K race was actually good, the weather was perfect and it was good practice for the upcoming cross-country season. I was leading the whole time and I was just maintaining my pace. Half marathon is too long for me so I'm good with 10K and 5K only."

Run Saipan president
See HIGH on Page 15

Kiss My Ace wins Fall Fest women's title



LEIGH GASES

Champion team Kiss My Ace, in black uniform, poses with runner-up Lady Starz after their finals matchup in the women's division of the Inaugural 4 Starz Fall Fest Volleyball Tournament 2024 last Saturday at the Agape Gymnasium.

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



Kiss My Ace dimmed the Lady Starz's shine and bid them adieu as they won the women's division title of the Inaugural

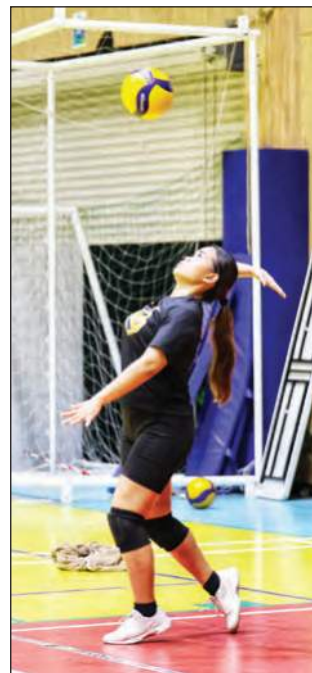
4 Starz Fall Fest Volleyball Tournament 2024 last Saturday at the Agape Gymnasium.

Kiss My Ace won it all in two sets, 25-13, 25-20.

The championship team, which consisted of Alisa Baquilles, Cecile Guevarra, Alyssa Velasco, Esco Ulloa, Julie Harrison, Leirha Manalo,

Fatima Monterubio, Karisse Anne Ong, Beatrice Fabre, Reilly Tyler, Kiana Hocog, and Nina Manglona, brought the Lady Starz to their knees in the first set.

The Lady Starz, which included Aiko Rasiang, Nichiko Rasiang, Veralei Hapdei, Vinalei Hapdei, Katriel Saures,



LEIGH GASE

Kiss My Ace team captain Alisa Baquilles goes for an overhead serve during the second set of their finals matchup against Lady Starz in the Inaugural 4 Starz Fall Fest Volleyball Tournament 2024 last Saturday at the Agape Gymnasium.

Jen Sav, Jsmin John, Azzy Fatialofa, and Mei Rengiil, could not seem to find their groove in the first set as it was over as quickly as it started.

But in the second set they regrouped and made a bid for a tie-breaking third set. It was a close match, 11-9, in favor of 4 Starz, but Kiss My

See KISS on Page 15



LEIGH GASES

Andrei Kaithlyn Chavez was the fastest woman in the Run Saipan 5K Fun Run held concurrently with the 3rd Annual Half Marathon last Saturday.